

THE HISTORIAN'S EXCHANGE

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When Blanche Met Up with FaceTime

In the early days of January in 1952 a monumental moment in American communication history occurred. I know, I know, you weren't even sent a notice about it – but it happened, nonetheless. What was that monumental moment, you ask? Well, the last hand-cranked telephones stopped being used in Broome County. The last location to still use those telephones was in the Town of Maine, and the process to move away from one where the user had to connect to an operator by cranking the telephone to get connected went the way of dodo bird.

For most of the readers in the region, they

never had the opportunity to use a hand-crank telephone. In many instances, most of you may never



have even seen an actual telephone. Maybe you have seen a replica that can be purchased as something "quaint" to decorate our homes. Yet, for many in the com-

munity in the last part of the nineteenth century and the early decades of the twentieth century, this was the type of telephone that could be found in nearly every home across the region.

I can attest to this firsthand. My grandparent's home in Oakdale was built in 1917, near Johnson City in Broome County — now a built-up retail market area.

It was described as a semi-bungalow style and was considered modern for the time. I was always intrigued by the hints of arts and crafts style with touches of days gone by. I would still

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A Message from Our President



The speakers and their topics with the assigned dates and times have been finalized. The complete list is on the APHNYS website.

I would like to remind you to always check the APHNYS website. You can find many documents, information, etc. on our website. Need to know who your Regional Coordinator is; it's on the website under contacts. Want to read past newsletters; check the website.

I remind historians, deputy historians, and others to please contact me at aphnys@yahoo.com if there are changes in your mailing address, phone number, and email.

Send in those conference registration forms and reserve your hotel room. See you at the Conference!

Rosemarie Tucker
APHNYS President

Our annual conference is fast approaching. The deadline for conference registration is to be post-marked by August 5th. If you are going to be a couple days late, it is imperative that your contact the APHNYS Treasurer, Margaret Hadsell at: aphnystreasurer@gmail.com. She is the only one that can approve a late arrival of your form and payment. The deadline for the hotel (Desmond in Albany) is August 25th. There is no extension for these reservations. Contact the hotel by using phone #518-869-8100. (Do NOT use the 800 number originally listed on the registration form.) Provide them with the Group Code **ZZB**, which gets you the conference rate of \$130.00. If you do not provide them with a tax exempt form, your charges will be higher. (Do NOT use the 800 number originally listed on the registration form.) The conference registration form and the hotel form are on the APHNYS website: www.aphnys.org.

It is time for a revision of the ByLaws. The current bylaws are found on the APHNYS website. I will be emailing the proposed changes before August 8th to all those with email. If you plan to attend the conference, the proposed bylaws changes will also be included in your conference packet, which you will pick up at the conference registration table., and voted on during the Business Meeting.



**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS
1999-2019**



love to have the floor-to-ceiling cabinets that were built into the second-floor area around the bedrooms. I also found the pantry with similar cabinets off of the kitchen as a wonderful place to “hang out” in the 1960s.

Just off of that pantry was the entrance to the dining room, next to the kitchen. That entrance had one of the familiar swinging solid doors of oak. You could swing it open in either direction if you carrying a tray load of food or returning the dirty dishes to the kitchen sink to be washed. I remember that there was a thick plate glass piece over the location where your hand would go to keep the door clean of the grunginess that would come from the many hands using the door.

My grandparents never really used that room as a dining room, but called it the middle room. It was adorned with a china cabinet, dropleaf table, desk, and several chairs – including my grandfather’s recliner. Thus, that oak door was always propped up into the kitchen with a doorstop. Despite my natural inclination to snoop and see what was behind everything, I always respected that space.

Yet, on one occasion my grandparents had reason to close the door between the two rooms. It may have been at the time that they were preparing to sell their home in late 1968 after living

there for fifty years. Things were getting packed up and areas were getting cleaned. On that day, as I stood in their kitchen, I finally saw behind the door. There to the left of the door on the wall was an old oak hand-cranked telephone.

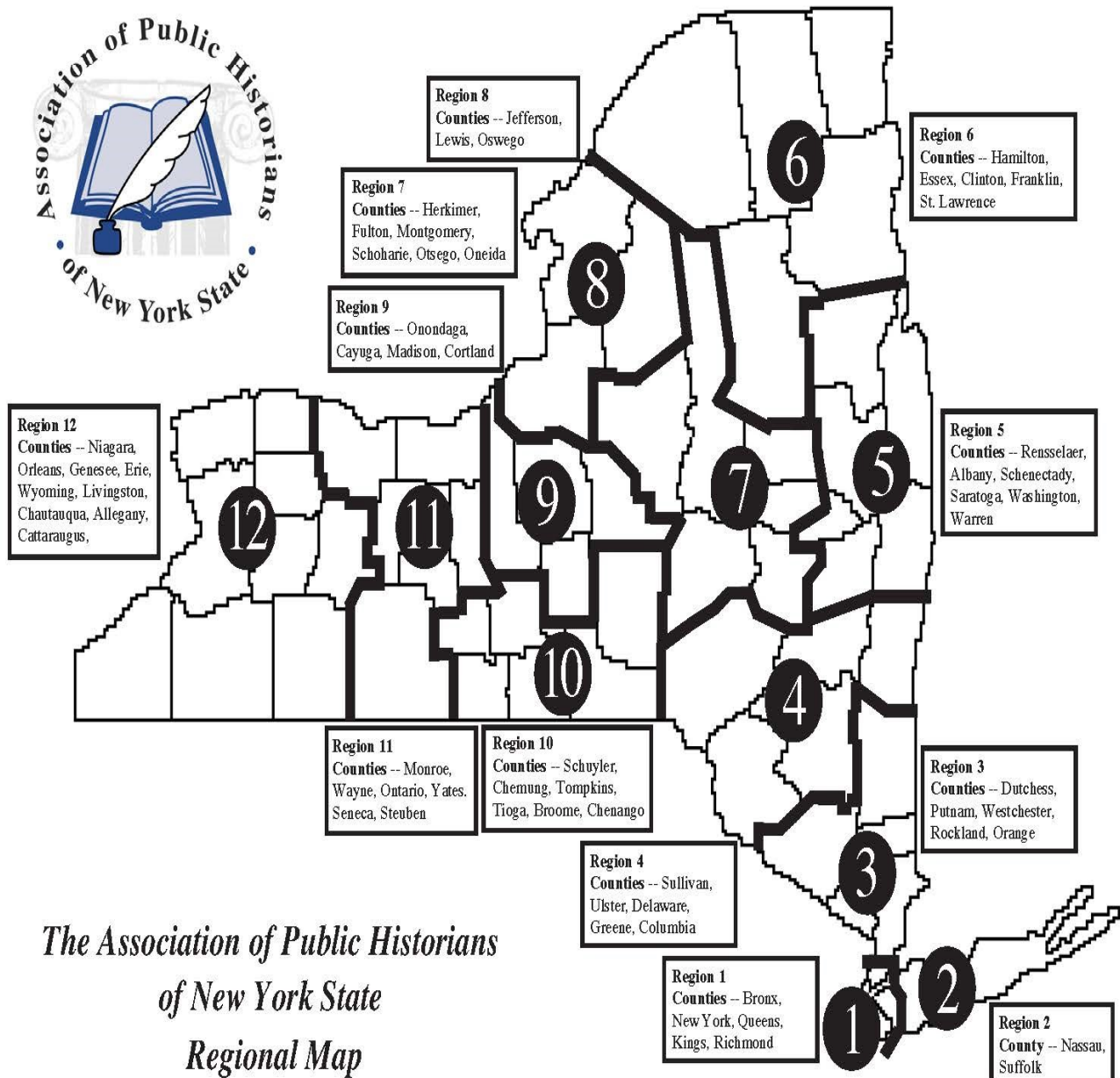
In all the years, I believed the only telephone they had was a standard black dial telephone that sat on top of their desk in the middle room (and I still have that desk today). Yet, there stood one of those old telephones where I could imagine my grandmother cranking up to connect to “Central” to ask good old Blanche to ring up one of the neighbors. That may be a bit simplistic, but the idea is basically how the telephones worked.

Of course, they also had a party line where you had to listen to make sure no one else was on the line so you could make your telephone call. We still had a party line in the late 1950s and early 1960s – which went the same way as the old hand-cranked telephone. Yet, from the early days when telephones were introduced until the 1950s, they were a part of our culture. I wonder how my grandparents would react to cell phones or FaceTime or Skype. In that one moment in 1968, their past met the beginnings of my future. So it goes.

Gerry Smith, Editor



News from the Regions



Region 8

The APHNYS Region 8 spring 2019 annual meeting offered several speakers the opportunity to update the gathered historians on activities and accomplishments in Jefferson, Lewis and Oswego Counties. Thanks to Jerry Perrin, historians gathered in Lowville on June 20th at the Lewis County Historical Society's former Masonic Temple building. Guest speaker Hallie Bond presented: "This Region So Delightful for Ladies: Women Visit the Adirondacks – from Anna Constable to Anne LaBastille." With an introduction about historic structure reports, preservationist Lydia Miller guided the group through the General Walter Martin House in Martinsburg. That 1804 home expanded over time and offers exceptional Greek Revival additions from the 1830s. Today, the building is undergoing painstaking repairs to bring it back to its former architectural excellence.

Reporting by Constance Baron



Editor's Thoughts



As the fall conference approaches, there are many things for our members to consider. There will be proposed changes to the by-laws which must be voted upon during the Business Meeting. These are changes to keep our organization current. Much of the leadership of the organization will be changing during the elections as well.

Recently there was discussion about whether APHNYS was compliant with New York State regulations regarding nonprofit organizations. As president of APHNYS at the time those regulations became effective, let me reassure the members and the board that several of us attended workshops and read all of the material provided by the state. We restructured the committees and instituted

fiscal policies to comply with those changes. This was done at the same time as we plotted our way back to fiscal solvency. APHNYS has continued to follow those guidelines since that time.

It is a difficult road that many nonprofits must walk, but APHNYS has followed the right path to ensure that we do the best by our members.

After twenty years, I will be also walking down the road, as the November issue will be my last as your editor. I am no longer an appointed historian, not on the board, and a new career for the next year will be taking me into the world of federal employment as a Partnership Specialist with the Census Bureau. I will be working from home over a small regional area. I will continue to teach and write about history — just not directly for APHNYS.

I will remain an affiliate member and ready to provide advice as needed. As I write this, I am not even sure I will be able to attend the conference, but hoping to have one last chance as your editor. Thanks for all the memories.

Gerry Smith, Editor

We Want Your News!!

Do you have a meeting or an announcement you want to reach across the state? Send us your news items to be put into the next issue of ***The Historian's Exchange***. Do you have an historian who has been honored — then send us the information so we can spread the word. This is our newsletter and the more information we have, the better we are informed and can do our jobs.

The deadline for the next issue is October 15, 2019, and the issue will come out in November 2019. Send your item to Gerry Smith at historysmiths@stny.rr.com.



NYS Historians Law Celebrates 100th Birthday

One hundred years ago, on April 11, 1919, New York Governor Al Smith signed the “Historians Law.” The first law of its kind in the United States, the Historians Law allowed for every village, town, and city in the state to have an official historian to gather and preserve historical records.

On this episode of A New York Minute In History, host and New York State Historian Devin Lander is joined by Clifton Park Historian John Scherer, Saratoga County Historian Lauren Roberts, and former Broome County Historian and past presi-

dent of the Association of Public Historians of New York State Gerald Smith to discuss the role of local historians and the integral part they play in their communities.

Download and listen to the podcast here: <https://wamcpodcasts.org/podcast/100-years-of-new-yorks-local-government-historians-law/>

Also read the State Historian’s article about the history of the bill at this link:

<https://www.nysarchivestrust.org/new-york-archives-magazine/magazine-highlights/summer-2019-volume-19-number-1>

***Courtesy Office of State History,
Devin Lander, State Historian***



**Association of Public Historians of New York State (APHNYS)
2019 Conference
Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY**

Schedule includes Speakers and Topics

(Changes may occur depending on speakers' final availability)

September 8, 2019 (Sunday)

6:00-8:00pm – Board of Trustees Meeting

September 9, 2019 (Monday) – Conference Registration 9:00am-12:30pm then 2:00-5:00pm
(closed during Conference Kick-Off and Annual Business Meeting).
Open other times throughout Conference.

Pre-Conference Sessions

10:00-11:15 am – Concurrent sessions

- A. *Setting Up a Historic Preservation Commission for Your Municipality and Making it Work*
John Scherer, APHNYS Trustee and Town of Clifton Park Historian
- B. *Allegany History Awareness Week*
William Heaney, Town of Belfast Historian & Allegany County Historical Society Event Coordinator
- C. *An Engineering Triumph: The Heroics of a Self-Educated Group of Engineers (The Erie Canal)*
Jacob Ludes, III, President & CEO Emeritus, New England Association of Schools and Colleges

Lunch on your own – not part of conference fees

1:00pm -- APHNYS Official Conference Kick-Off

2:00-3:15pm – Concurrent Sessions

- A. *Principal Sights: The New York State Traveler in 1826*
Paul Schneider, Jr., Independent Historian and Brad Utter, Senior Historian of NYS Museum
- B. *The Mohawk Valley Sweeps the Worlds: Schenectady County and the Broomcorn Industry of the 1800s*
Beverly Clark, Village of Scotia Historian; Chris Leonard, City of Schenectady Historian; and John Woodward, Town of Rotterdam Historian
- C. *Publishing 101*
Margaret Hadsell, APHNYS Trustee & Treasurer and Town of Vestal Historian

3:30-4:45pm – APHNYS Annual Meeting

(includes “State of the State’s History by NYS Historian Devin Lander)

4:45-5:30pm – Free Time to view Exhibits and Vendors

September 9, 2019 (Continued)**6:30-8:30/9:00pm -- Buffet Dinner** (Part of conference fees included on Pre-registration form)Keynote Presentation: *The Women of Schuyler Mansion*

Heidi Hill, Site Supervisor of Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site

September 10, 2019 (Tuesday):**7:00-8:15am: Buffet Breakfast** (Part of conference fees included on Pre-registration form)**8:30-9:45am – Concurrent Sessions**A. *Murder, Crime, and Funky Stuff: Schoharie and Surrounding Counties 1842-1972*

Karen Cucinello, Town of Summit Historian

B. *Sharing Your Community's History Through Blogging*

Ray LaFever, APHNYS Trustee & First Vice President; Town of Bovina Historian

C. *Uncovering the Durants: A Gilded Age Melodrama*

Sheila Myers, Professor at Cayuga Community College

10:00-11:15am – Concurrent SessionsA. *How to Become a Registered Historian*

Sandra Bradford, Registered Historian Subcommittee Chairperson and Town of Hector

Historian; Subcommittee Members: Babette Huber, APHNYS Trustee and Town of Victor

Historian; and Karen Osburn, City of Geneva Historian

B. *The Eleventh Hour: An Appeal to Preserve Our Burying Grounds and Historic Cemeteries*

Zachary Studenroth, APHNYS Trustee and Village of Southampton Historian

C. *Basic Orientation for Newly Appointed Historians* (and those who have not previously attended this session)

Christine Ridarsky, New Historians Subcommittee Chairperson and City of Rochester Historian

11:20am-12:30pm – Buffet Lunch (Part of conference fees included on Pre-registration form)**12:45-5:00pm – Bus leaves hotel at 12:45pm for Afternoon Tours:** (Required to pre-register for these sessions). Check with Registration Table to see if there were cancellations or any available seats)**Tour A: New York State Archives, Library & Museum****Tour B: Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site and Albany Institute of History & Art****At 2:15 tour B will switch so all on Tour B get to visit Schuyler Mansion and Albany Institute of History & Art****5:30-6:30pm – Cash-Bar Reception** (pay for your own at bar; no charges/fees for food)**6:30-8:30/9:00pm: Annual Awards Buffet Dinner** (Part of conference fees included on Pre-registration form)**Presentation of APHNYS Awards** by Awards Committee Members: John Scherer andDevin Lander. **Entertainment by Jack Casey: *The Trial of Bat Shea*** (songs written by Jack Casey about the above-named trial).

September 11, 2019 (Wednesday): (Exhibit and Vendor Area Closes at 11:00am)

7:00-8:30am: Buffet Breakfast (Part of conference fees included on Pre-registration form)

8:45-10:00am – Concurrent Sessions

- A. *The First Step in Admitting You Have a Problem: Resolving Local History Mistakes and Myths*
Mary Cascone, Town of Babylon Historian
- B. *Capturing the History of Now*
Chris Leonard, City of Schenectady Historian
- C. *Ballston Spa vs. Saratoga Springs: The Rivalry Between Two Resort Towns in the Early 19th Century*
James Richmond, Independent Historian and Charles Kuenzel, former Director Saratoga Tours and President Saratoga History Museum

10:15-11:30am – Concurrent Sessions

- A. *The Women of Loomis and the Search for a Cure (Tuberculosis)*
John Conway, Sullivan County Historian.
- B. *Founders Day: A School Program for Students and Teachers*
Barbara Russell, Town of Brookhaven Historian
- C. *The Underground Railroad: A New Interpretation of an Old Story*
Mary Liz Stewart and Paul Stewart, Co-Founders Underground Railroad Project in Albany

Conference Concludes



APHNYS 2019 Conference Registration Form

Annual State Conference in Albany

September 9—September 11, 2019

Deadline for Reservations: Postmarked by Monday, August 5, 2019

Name: _____ APHNYS Region: _____

Title: _____

Municipality: _____ County: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Spouse / Guest Name: _____

Please check all that apply:

- ☐ I am a newly or recently appointed Public Historian
- ☐ I am a continuing Public Historian
- ☐ I am a Deputy/Assistant/Co-Historian/Community District
- ☐ I am an Affiliate Member of APHNYS
- ☐ I have been a member of APHNYS since _____
- ☐ This will be my first visit to Albany.

Please make checks payable to **APHNYS**
and return this completed form
with your payment to:

APHNYS 2019 Conference
P.O. Box 251
Vestal, NY 13851

Please fill in all that apply

Registration:

- \$ _____ **\$65.00** /person—Member Registration Fee for Full Conference or One-Day Attendance
- \$ _____ **\$75.00** /person—Non-member Registration Fee
- \$ _____ **\$25.00** /person—Spouse/Guest Rate if s/he would like to attend sessions
- \$ _____ **\$25.00** /person—Student Registration Fee to attend sessions (include copy of Student ID)

Meals:

- \$ _____ **\$40.00** /person—Monday September 9—Keynote Speaker Banquet
- \$ _____ **\$21.00** /person—Tuesday September 10—Breakfast
- \$ _____ **\$30.00** /person—Tuesday September 10—Lunch
- \$ _____ **\$40.00** /person—Tuesday September 10—Annual Awards Banquet
- \$ _____ **\$21.00** /person—Wednesday September 11—Breakfast

Tuesday Afternoon Field Experiences—Price includes Transportation & Admission.

- \$ _____ **\$20.00** /person—Option A to NYS Archives, Library and Museum
- \$ _____ **\$20.00** /person—Option B to Albany Institute of History & Art and Schuyler Mansion

\$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED



APHNYS 2019 CONFERENCE HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

The Desmond Hotel, 660 Albany Shaker Road, Albany, NY 12211

To make a reservation at *The Desmond Hotel*, please call Reservations Desk 518-869-8100 or 800-448-3500 or mail to Desmond Hotel (address listed above). You can also go on-line to their website: www.desmondhotelsalbany.com
When making reservations, be sure to use Group Code: **ZZB**
Deadline for Room Reservations: August 25, 2019



Name: _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Please check which accommodations you would like (hotel is 100% non-smoking):

☐ Single Occupancy: \$130 + applicable tax (unless a NYS ST-129 form is provided at check-in)

☐ Double Occupancy: \$130 + applicable tax (unless a NYS ST-129 form is provided at check-in)
Roommate's Name _____

Please specify any special requests, i.e.; handicap accessible room, etc.: _____

Appointed Historians, Co-Historians, Assistant Historians and/or Deputy Historians: You must obtain a tax-exempt form NYS ST-129 from your local government and present the form to the hotel at time of check-in.

Check-In: 4:00 PM

Check-Out: 12:00 Noon

Rooms that are not reserved by cut-off date of August 25, 2019 will be returned to the hotel to sell. Reservations made after the cut-off date will be made based on availability.
If making reservation using a Check: Please complete this form and mail with check to the address above.

To guarantee with credit card:

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Board of Trustees will meet Sept. 8 at 6pm
Conference Dates: Sept. 9, 10, and 11, 2019
There will be pre-conference sessions the morning of Sept. 9th. Conference will end mid-day Sept. 11.

**DO NOT SEND THIS FORM TO THE
APHNYS OFFICE**



2019 Dues / Membership Form

For January 1—December 31, 2019

Please Type or Print Clearly and Fill Out Completely

Member Information

Membership Category:

- ☐ Historian
☐ Co-Historian
☐ Deputy Historian
☐ Assistant Historian
☐ Affiliate Member*
 (*Please provide your county)

Appointed for:

- ☐ County
☐ Town
☐ Village
☐ City
☐ Borough

Date of Original Appointment:

Note: If you are a new Historian, please provide the name of the previous historian:

Municipality: _____ **County:** _____

Your Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **ST:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: (____) _____ **email:** _____

Municipal Mailing Address: _____

Annual Dues for Historians and Co-Historians are based on the Municipality's population; please circle the appropriate line.

- \$25.00 = 0—1,000
 \$30.00 = 1001—4000
 \$35.00 = 4001—12,000
 \$40.00 = 12,001—100,000
 \$45.00 = 100,001—200,000
 \$50.00 = 200,001—1+ Million

Note: If you are historian or deputy historian for more than one municipality, dues are to be paid for each municipality.

Annual Dues for Other Memberships are:

- \$25.00—Deputy and/or Assistant Historian
 \$25.00—Affiliate Member
 \$25.00—NYC Community District Historian

Note: An Affiliate Membership is for any cultural agency, educational institution, corporation, historical society, museum, or individual interested in NY State history and the work of the public historians of New York State. Per the APHNYS By-laws, Affiliates shall be non-voting members and shall not hold office.

Please mail this completed form with your check, payable to APHNYS, to:

APHNYS
 P.O. Box 251
 Vestal, NY 13851

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.

Questions? email us at APHNYS@yahoo.com or aphnystreasurer@gmail.com



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www.aphnys.org
aphnys@yahoo.com

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Vacant trustee position