

APHNYS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

"WATERSHED MOMENTS"

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2021

LAKE ONTARIO EVENTS AND CONFERENCE CENTER, OSWEGO, NY

We are delighted to announce that we will be meeting in Oswego in 2021 -- a year later than planned. We were scheduled to gather there in 2020 but were forced to cancel our in-person meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, the Lake Ontario Events & Conference Center was willing to work with us to postpone our arrangements for a year. We will retain the original theme we had intended for 2020.

The year 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment that recognized U.S. women's right to vote and the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment that enfranchised Black men, as well as the anniversaries of innumerable other "Watershed Moments" in local, state, and national history. As the Association of Public Historians of New York State gathers in 2021 in Oswego, at the convergence of the Oswego River and Lake Ontario, we seek to examine the various ways in which public historians interpret and commemorate "Watershed Moments," as well as the role water has played in shaping the communities we serve.

In addition to our in-person offerings, we are pleased to announce that we are also providing a professionally produced live-streaming option for those who are unable to travel to be with us in Oswego. Sessions that will be live streamed are noted.

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

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 Sandra Bradford, 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)

3:30PM-4:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. Fort Ontario's Quasquibicentennial Crossroads (Streaming)

This is a watershed year in Fort Ontario's 266-year history—2021 marks the quasquibicentennial, 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. 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.

4:30PM-5:15PM

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

A. 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

"Way Beyond Seneca Falls: Grassroots Support for Women's Suffrage in New York State, as Viewed through Public History" (Streaming)

Presented by Judith Wellman

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

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.

10:15AM-10:45AM BREAK

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

5:30AM-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 is a 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 Yaun Porr, 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.)

B. A Woman Voter in 1842 in Waterford?

Six years before the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, NY, in 1848, Maria Rynders cast 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. Odató.