

Schuylerville Public Library Local History Collection Finding Aid

Finding aid prepared by Katherine Federiconi, Fall 2017 and Brieanna Chillious Fall 2016

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Reference Code: 2017-001

Name and Location of Repository: Schuylerville Public Library, 52 Ferry Street, Schuylerville,

New York 12871.

Title: Schuylerville Local History Collection.

Date: circa 1854 – 2015.

Extent: 6 cubic feet (14 document boxes, 1 oversize box)

Creator: Schuylerville Public Library.

Language: English

Abstract: The Schuylerville Public Library Local History Collection consists of

materials that span the years of 1854-2015. The materials included represent the Schuylerville Public Library; governance, reports, and projects within the Town of Saratoga and Saratoga County; pamphlets and ephemera; local family histories; correspondence; records relating to the American Revolution era; published materials of local organizations and authors; photographs; newspaper clippings; and select Saratoga County magazines. This collection documents aspects of the history of Schuylerville and the

surrounding communities.

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

The Schuylerville Public Library was established in 1894 and chartered in 1905 to serve the local population. In 1968, the library moved to its current location at 52 Ferry Street, downtown Schuylerville, New York. The Library was re-chartered as a School District Library in 2013 and

now serves a population of approximately 10,000 from Saratoga County. Schuylerville Public Library is a member of the Southern Adirondack Library System (SALS), which shares a computerized cataloging system with the Mohawk Valley Library System.

The mission of the Library is "to assemble, preserve and provide printed, audio, video and other electronically accessed materials that will meet the educational, informational, cultural and recreational interests and needs of the community serviced by the Library and in compliance with local, state and federal laws. The Library will be a source of refuge, inspiration and safe harbor to all patrons who seek the services it provides."

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Schuylerville Public Library Local History Collection consists of materials that span the years of 1854-2015. The materials included represent the Schuylerville Public Library; governance, reports, and projects within the Town of Saratoga and Saratoga County; pamphlets and ephemera; local family histories; correspondence; records relating to the American Revolution era; published materials of local organizations and authors; photographs; newspaper clippings; and select Saratoga County magazines. This small, but developing collection holds much research value.

The Schuylerville Public Library has two noteworthy research areas, and the Local History Collection contains series in both: The American Revolution and Genealogy materials. The American Revolution is significant because Schuylerville, also known as Old Saratoga, was the site of the famous turning point battle, the Battle of Saratoga, also known as the Saratoga Campaign. The *American Revolution* series contains a wide variety of materials reflecting the time period, including a number of academic reports on the battle itself. The series also includes a plethora of ephemera from the bicentennial celebration in 1977.

The *Local Family Records* series includes family lineages from various local families, but also contains quite an interesting collection of correspondence involving the Webster family and their relatives, dating from 1854 to 1925. There are also a significant amount of papers relating to the legal aspects surrounding William B. Webster's death in the early twentieth century. These papers and correspondence reflect society during this time period, as researchers are able to see how families interacted when separated by distance. Included in this series are also a handful of different family's complete lineages.

The Local Governance, Projects, and Reports series contains the project reports for the Independent Towers LLC and National Grid. The Independent Towers LLC Company wished to build a one hundred foot Telecommunications Tower. The National Grid project was to rebuild about fourteen miles of 115 kV double-circuit electric transmission facilities from the Mohican Substation in Saratoga County to the Battenkill Substation in Washington County. The items in this series contain the project reports, supplementary documents, and the response from the community, which was not entirely positive.

These are just a few of the noteworthy records a researcher may find in this collection. Let it be noted that this collection has passed through the hands of several archives interns. As a result, some of the items have been encased in Mylar and include a numbering system that is no longer applicable.

SYSTEM OF ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged in ten series. As there was no original order or provenance, the items in this collection are artificially arranged by subject.

Series 1: Schuylerville Free Library/Public Library Records

Date: 1935 – 2010, bulk 1968 -1979

Extent: 1 box; 0.5 cubic feet

This series contains documents relating to the development of Schuylerville Free Library (Public Library). Items in this series include annual reports, correspondence, financial statements, Southern Adirondack Library System reports, and the Schuylerville Public Library Bookmark Contest materials.

Series 2: Local Governance, Projects, and Reports

Date: 1958-2015

Extent: 3 boxes; 1.5 cubic feet

This series consists of two subseries: 2.1: Governance, Reports, and Correspondence; and 2.2 Local Project Reports, Independent Towers LLC, National Grid.

Subseries 2.1: Governance, Reports, and Correspondence

Date: 1958-2010, bulk 1987-1989. Extent: 2 boxes; 1 cubic feet

This subseries contains the master plan for the town, business and economic reports, government officials for the Village of Schuylerville and the Village of Victory Mills, both within the conglomerate of the Town of Saratoga (bulk: 1987-1989). The correspondence relate to a request to change the name of Battle of Saratoga to the Battle of Stillwater, as well as Schuyler Mansion becoming a historic site. Also included are reports discussing the environment, and preservation needs and protocol, Capital District Transportation Committee, Capital District Office of Planning Coordination on mobile homes, and the Saratoga County Democratic yearbook.

Subseries 2.2: Local Project Reports, Independent Towers LLC, National Grid.

Date: 2007-2015

Extent: 1 box; 0.5 cubic feet

This subseries contains reports, plans, and correspondence for the proposed construction of a 100' telecommunications tower facility by the Independent Towers, LLC Company, and the National Grid Mohican-Battenkill rebuild project.

Series 3: Historical Materials

Date: 1912 - 2002

Extent: 1 box; 0.5 cubic feet

This series contains a wide variety of items relating to local history, including historic pamphlets of Schuylerville, reports on historical data relating to the people of Saratoga County, and published materials discussing Saratoga County, Saratoga County Court Files from 17991-1900, Saratoga train history, Alexander Hamilton, and the Eric Canal.

Series 4: Local Family Records

Date: 1854 - 2006

Extent: 2 boxes, 1 cubic foot

This series consists of two subseries: 4.1: Correspondence and Recollections; and 4.2 Ancestry and Lineage.

Subseries 4.1: Correspondence and Recollections

Date: 1854 – 2005; bulk dates: 1854-1925.

Extent: 1 box; 0.5 cubic feet

This subseries contains the correspondence, ephemera, and records of local families, most noteworthy the Webster family. Included In this series are also published materials on the lives of William Butz and Marcella Nacy Barrett, and the George Strover Family Papers finding aid.

Subseries 4.2: Ancestry and Lineage

Date: 1965 - 2006

Extent: 1 box; 0.5 cubic feet

This subseries contains information on locating marriage, birth, and death records, Schuylerville cemeteries, Revolutionary War genealogy online resources, French-Canadian genealogy, New Netherland Dutch Colony resources, and local family lineages of the Sylvester and Bielkiewicz families, Alexander Bryan, Jonathan Griffen, James McGeoch, and the Arnold Family.

Series 5: American Revolution

Date: 1882-2005; bulk dates 1950 – 1990.

Extent: 2 boxes, 0.75 cubic feet

This series consists of two subseries: 5.1: Published Materials and Ephemera, 1882 - 2005; and 5.2: Academic Reports, 1940 - 1973.

Subseries 5.1: Published Materials and Ephemera, 1882 – 2005.

Date: 1882-2005; bulk dates 1950 – 1990.

Extent: 1 box, 0.5 cubic feet

This subseries contains both published materials and ephemera relating to the American Revolution, Saratoga Monument and Soldiers Monuments, and the Bicentennial celebration. Items include academic articles, event programs, activity and coloring books, cookbooks, pamphlets and brochures, and other ephemera such as postcards, bicentennial stamps, and a bumper sticker.

Subseries 5.2: Academic Reports, 1940 – 1973.

Date: 1882-2005; bulk dates 1950 – 1990.

Extent: 1 box, 0.25 cubic feet

This subseries contains academic reports relating to the American Revolution. Subject matters include General John Fellow's defenses in Easton Township, General Simon Fraser, Benedict Arnold at Saratoga, the Saratoga Campaign, information on Gates' Army, and the army and campaign of Lieutenant General John Burgoyne. A primary source report for drawing No. NHP-SAR 2013 is also included discussing troop movement for the battles of September 19, 1777 and October 7, 1777.

Series 6: Local Organization Papers and Published Materials

Date: 1883 – 2014; bulk 2006 – 2014

Extent: 1 box; 0.25 cubic feet

This series contains local organization's published materials and papers. The organizations represented include the Turning Point Dairy, Capital District Civil War Round Table, Historical Society of Moreau and South Glens Falls, Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center, Washington County Historical Society, Warren County Historical Society, Schuylerville Study Club, and the Schuylerville Association for Growth & Enterprise, Inc.. Schuylerville religious organizations in this collection include the Church of the Visitation, the Old Saratoga Reformed Church, Notre Dame de Lourdes, New York United Methodist Church, and Quaker Springs United Methodist Church.

Series 7: Photographs

Date: Circa 1900s

Extent: 1 box; 0.25 cubic feet

This series contains unidentified family photographs and research, photographs from the publication *Schuylerville Historical Week*, Schuylerville Central School faculty photographs, and a collection of images from Lake George. The majority of the series is undated.

Series 8: Local Authors Published Works

Date: 1940 - 2008

Extent: 1 box; 0.25 cubic feet

This series contains primarily self-published materials of local authors. Content ranges from stories and essays, to poetry and a craft book. Featured authors include Kathy Ceceri, Mildred Curtis Drew, Lillian Pearson Muzikar, and Ken Tate, and a couple of publications by the Friends of Schuylerville Public Library and the Friends of Taylor Public Library.

Series 9: Newspaper Articles

Date: 1930 – 2012

Extent: 1 box; 0.25 cubic feet

This series contains newspaper clippings from local publications, including *The Saratogian, The Post-Star, The Journal Press, The Schuylerville Standard, Times Union, The Chronicle, Wise Shoppers, The Sunday Telegram, and the Free Press.* Topics of these articles cover news about the Schuylerville Public Library, Schuylerville town planning and development and concerns, Schuylerville Central Schools, county news, opinion pieces and letters to the editor, historical and contemporary events and announcements, 1977 bicentennial articles, and a plethora of obituaries of local citizens.

Series 10: Saratoga County Magazines

Date: 1977, 2009-2013 Size: 1 box; 0.25 cubic feet This series contains a few volumes of local magazine publications, including the *Schuylerville Community Guide*, *Welcome Home*, *Autumn Lane*, *HerLife*, *Saratoga*, *Saratoga Living*, *Southern Saratoga Magazine*, and a single article from *Spirit of Saratoga*.

Series 11: Oversized Materials

Dates: circa 1898 – 2009 Extent: 1 oversize box

This box contains documents, maps, restaurant menus, and large newspaper articles that are being stored in an oversize box in order to ensure their condition is preserved for future use.

CONDITIONS OF ACCESS AND USE ELEMENTS

Conditions Governing Access: Collection is open for research.

Physical Access: There are no restrictions on physical access.

Technical Access: There are no technical restrictions to this collection.

ACQUSITION AND APPRAISAL ELEMENTS

Custodial History: The Collection started when the library opened in 1968.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Donations have been made throughout the Library's history from numerous members of the community.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Preferred Citation: [Description of Item, Date,] Schuylerville Local History Collection, Schuylerville Public Library, Schuylerville, New York.

Separated Materials: Artifacts and framed items were separated from the collection and cataloged separately.

CONTROLLED ACCESS HEADINGS

Subject:

American Revolution

American Revolution, 1775-1783

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1976

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1776-1976

American Revolution Bicentennial, 1976, on postage stamps

Corporate governance

Family history (Genealogy)

Genealogy

Schuyler House (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Saratoga Campaign, N.Y., 1777

Saratoga, Battle of, N.Y., 1777

Saratoga Monument (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Soldiers Monument (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Corporate Name:

Capital District Civil War Round Table

Saratoga Battlefield Association

Friends of Saratoga Battlefield

Historical Society of Moreau and South Glens Falls (N.Y.)

Independent Towers, LLC Company

National Grid

Saratoga County Historical Society (N.Y.)

Schuyler House (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Schuylerville Public Library (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Schuylerville Central School District (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Schuylerville Study Club (Schuylerville, N.Y.)

Southern Adirondack Library System

Southern Adirondack Library System (N.Y.)

Warren County Historical Society (N.Y.)

Washington County Historical Society (Washington County, N.Y.)

Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center (N.Y.)

Names:

Arnold, Benedict

Bartholomay, Kathleen

Behrens, Patricia "Pat"

Burgoyne, John

Clark, Orson B. (O. B.)

Curtis Drew, Mildred

Fraser, Simon

Griffen, Jonathan

James, Willis

McGeoch, James

Rodeheaver, Jane

Schuyler, Philip

Strach, Stephen

Webster, Ella

Webster, John Milton (J. M.) Webster, William B. (W. B.) Whitehouse, Dorothy

Geographic:

Adirondack Mountains (N.Y.)

Adirondack Park (N.Y.)

Albany (N.Y.)

New York State Capital (Albany, N.Y.)

Saratoga National Historical Park (N.Y.)

Saratoga Springs (N.Y.)

Saratoga County (N.Y.)

Schuylerville (N.Y.)

Stillwater (N.Y.)

Town of Saratoga (N.Y.)

Victory Mills (N.Y.)

Bennington (Vt.)

RELATED MATERIALS

Related materials to those kept in this collection can be found at the following repositories: Saratoga Room, Saratoga Springs Public Library; Brookside Museum Archive; and the New York State Archives.

DESCRIPTION CONTROL

Description based on DACS, *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (Chicago: Society of American Archivists, 2013). Finding aid written by Katherine Federiconi, 2017.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

Series 1: Schuylerville Free Library/Public Library Records, 1935 – 2010.

Box 1

Folder 1: Meeting minutes, 1935 - 1950

Folder 2: Official Documents, 2005-2014

Folder 3: (3) Reports of Examination, 1975, 1978

Folder 4: Annual Reports, 1968-1969

Folder 5: Financial papers, 1975-1990

Folder 6: Correspondence, 1938-2007

Folder 7: Southern Adirondack Library System, 1977-2010

Folder 8: Bookmark Contest, undated

Folder 9: Local History and Revolutionary War Library Collection Inventory List, undated

Series 2: Local Governance, Projects, and Reports, 1958-2015.

Subseries 2.1: Governance, Reports, and Correspondence, 1958-2010.

Box 2

Folder 1: Village of Schuylerville Master Plan, 1968

Folder 2: Comprehensive Plans, 1999, 2005

Folder 3: Economic Reports, 1980-1997

Folder 4: Zoning Codes and Regulations, 1980, 2010

Folder 5: Village of Schuylerville Government Personnel Index, 1987-1999

Folder 6: Village of Victory Mills Government Personnel Index, 1987

Folder 7: Town of Saratoga Government Personnel Index, 1988-1989

Folder 8: Old Saratoga Central Business Alliance (OSCBA), 1984

Folder 9: Correspondence, Battle of Saratoga name change, 1980

Folder 10: Schuyler Mansion Historic Site, 1980 Donated by Lillian Dunbar

Box 3

Folder 1: Saratoga County Commission Report, 1987

Folder 2: Environmental Reports, 1975, 1983

Folder 3: Preservation Reports, 1958, 2007

Folder 4: Capital District Transportation Committee Reports, 2010

Folder 5: Capital District Office of Planning Coordination Reports, undated

Folder 6: Saratoga County Democratic Yearbook, 1983 May 1

Subseries 2.2: Local Project Reports, Independent Towers LLC, National Grid, 2007-2015.

Box 4

Folder 1: Visual Analysis Report, 2012

Folder 2: 100' Telecommunications Tower Facility Project Report, 2007

Folder 3: 100' Telecommunications Tower Facility Project Report, 2007

Folder 4: 100' Telecommunications Tower Facility Project Supplementary Materials, 2007

Folder 5: Mohican-Battenkill Rebuild Project, 2013

Folder 6: Mohican-Battenkill Rebuild Project Restated Exhibit 7, 2012

Folder 7: Mohican-Battenkill Rebuild Project Correspondence, 2010-2015

Folder 8: Mohican-Battenkill Rebuild Project Petitions, 2012-2015

Series 3: Historical Materials, 1912 – 2002.

Box 5

Folder 1: Schuylerville Historical Pamphlets, 1912-2001

Folder 2: Ephemera, undated

Folder 3: Barbara Aldrich Local Research, undated

Folder 4: Saratoga County Historical Data, 1963-1964

Folder 5: Saratoga County Bibliography, 1977

Folder 6: Saratoga Court Records (1791-1900), 2002

Folder 7: Saratoga County Historical Publications, 1976, 1995

Folder 8: Saratoga Train History, 1967

Folder 9: Alexander Hamilton Biography, 1957

Folder 10: Erie Canal History, 2001

Series 4: Local Family Records, 1854 – 2006.

Subseries 4.1: Correspondence and Recollections, 1854 – 2005.

Box 6

Folder 1: Local Families Correspondence, 1854-1898

Folder 2: Local Families Ephemera, 1882-1948

Folder 3: Webster Family Correspondence, 1893-1925

Folder 4: Webster Lineage Correspondence, undated

Folder 5: William B. Webster Records, 1888-1941

Folder 6: Willis Lyman James, 1897

Folder 7: Marcella Nacy Barrett, undated

Folder 8: William Butz, 2005

Folder 9: George Strover Family Papers Finding Aid, 1999

Subseries 4.2: Ancestry and Lineage, 1965 – 2006.

Box 7

Folder 1: Locating Marriage, Birth and Death Records, 1967, 1976

Folder 2: Schuylerville Cemeteries, 1893, 2002

Folder 3: Revolutionary War Genealogy, circa 2006

Folder 4: French-Canadian and Dutch Colony, 1984, 2014

Folder 5: Sylvester Family, 1965

Folder 6: Bielkiewicz Family History, 1994

Folder 7: Alexander Bryan Lineage, 1995

Folder 8: Jonathan Griffen Lineage, 1983

Folder 9: James McGeoch Lineage, 1999

Folder 10: Arnold Family, 1992

Series 5: American Revolution, 1882-2005.

Subseries 5.1: Published Materials and Ephemera, 1882 – 2005.

Box 8

Folder 1: Battle of Saratoga, 1952, 1985

Folder 2: John Burgoyne, undated

Folder 3: Philip Schuyler, undated

Folder 4: Saratoga Battlefield

Folder 5: Saratoga Monument

Folder 6: Soldiers Monument, 1904

Folder 7: American Revolution Themed Events, 1926, 1950-1952

Folder 8: Activity and Coloring Books, 1966-2005

Folder 9: Cookbooks

Folder 10: Bicentennial Published Materials, 1973-1999

Folder 11: Bicentennial Correspondence, 1975

Folder 12: Bicentennial Ephemera, 1975-1977

Subseries 5.2: Academic Reports, 1940 – 1973.

Box 9

Folder 1: R. Arthur Johnson Report, 1973

Folder 2: John F. Luzader Reports, 1958-1960

Folder 3: Charles W. Snell Reports, 1951

Folder 4: Francis F. Wilshin Report, 1940

Folder 5: Primary Source Report, undated

Series 6: Local Organization Papers and Published Materials, 1883 – 2014.

Box 10

- Folder 1: Schuylerville Organization Directory, 1977
- Folder 2: Schuylerville Study Club, 1994
- Folder 3: Schuylerville Association for Growth & Enterprise, Inc. (SAGE), 1983
- Folder 4: Turning Point Dairy, 2008
- Folder 5: Friends of Saratoga Battlefield, 2007
- Folder 6: Capital District Civil War Round Table, 2011-2012
- Folder 7: Waterford Historical Museum and Cultural Center, 2011-2014
- Folder 8: Historical Society of Moreau and South Glens Falls, 2013-2014
- Folder 9: Saratoga County Historical Society, 2006-2012
- Folder 10: Warren County Historical, 2011-2013
- Folder 11: Washington County Historical Society, 2007-2008
- Folder 12: Canal Brochures, 1997, undated
- Folder 13: Miscellaneous, 1978-2013
- Folder 14: Schuylerville Religious Organizations, 1884, 1970-1995

Series 7: Photographs, circa 1900s.

Box 11

- Folder 1: Unidentified Family Photographs, undated
- Folder 2: Photographs and Research, approximately 1900s
- Folder 3: Schuylerville Historical Week, undated
- Folder 4: Schuylerville Central School, 1974-1994
- Folder 5: Lake George, undated

Series 8: Local Authors Published Works, 1940 – 2008.

Box 12

- Folder 1: Kathy Ceceri, 2008
- Folder 2: Mildred Curtis Drew, 1989, 2001
- Folder 3: Friends of Schuylerville Public Library, 1977
- Folder 4: Friends of the Taylor Public Library, 2007
- Folder 5: Lillian Pearson Muzikar, undated
- Folder 6: Ken Tate, 1996

Series 9: Newspaper Articles, 1930 – 2012.

Box 13

- **Folder 1:** Schuylerville Public Library, 2003 2006
- Folder 2: Town Planning and Development, 1969-2003
- **Folder 3:** Town Concerns, 1970 1985
- **Folder 4:** Schuylerville Central School, 1930 1970
- Folder 5: Kathleen Bartholomay Articles, 1999
- **Folder 6:** Local News, 1969 2003
- **Folder 7:** Opinion Pieces, 1970 1985
- **Folder 8:** Letters to the Editor, 1972

Folder 9: Event and Announcements, 1961 - 1984

Folder 10: Historical Topics, 1973 – 1986

Folder 11: American Revolution, Saratoga Monument, Bicentennial, 1962 – 1971

Folder 12: Local Obituaries, 2004-2012

Series 10: Saratoga County Magazines, 1977, 2009 – 2013.

Box 14:

Folder 1: Schuylerville Community Guide, 2012.

Folder 2: Welcome Home, 2011-2013.

Folder 3: Autumn Lane, 2009. **Folder 4:** HerLife, 2011-2012.

Folder 5: Saratoga Magazines, 1977, 2011-2013.

Series 11: Oversized Materials, circa 1898 – 2009.

Oversize Box:

Item: Announcement, Historians and Collectors of Rare Americana Ought to Possess that Rare Publication "Captain Norton's Orderly Book, 1776" Keating-Barnard Publishing Co., Fort Edward, N.Y., 1898 July 11

Menus:

Item: Menu, Some Place Else, Route 29 Atop Schuylerville Hill, Schuylerville, N.Y., undated **Item:** Menu, Some Place Else, Route 29 Atop Schuylerville Hill, Schuylerville, N.Y., undated

Maps:

Item: Three maps, two copies of "Troop Movements-Battle of Sept. 19, 1777", one copy of "Troop Movements-Battle of Oct.7, 1777", Charles W. Snell, 1950 December

Item: Map, "Saratoga Springs Street Map Including: Town of Saratoga, Greenfield, Wilton", undated

Item: Map, Saratoga City & County, printed by JIMPACO, 14th edition

Item: Maps, The Adirondack Atlas, printed by Visual Encyclopedia, date unknown

Item: Two map (enclosed as one) of the Historical & Recreational Site Development Plan by M.J. Engineering P.C., Consulting Engineers

Item: Atlas, New Topographical Atlas of Saratoga Co. New York", surveyed by S.N. and D. G. Beers and Assistants, limited edition, 1866 reprinted 1969 November

Newspaper:

Item: Newspaper, "Loom Stilled, Victory Mills Chants Requiem", by John Wanhopem, and "Albany Symphony Orchestra", 824 E 221st Bronx New York City, 1930 February

Item: Newspaper, "Fitchburg Staion becomes new restaurant" by Marie D. Whitford; and "Day of house has arrived in tri-county area" by Shelley Riley, publication unknown, 1973 May 20

Item: Newspaper, Atwell's Reader, pg. 1-4, Vol. 1 (1), Schuylerville, N.Y., 1877 August 4

Item: Newspaper article, "Swimming against the current: Early environmentalist Sam Aldrich was a guardian of the Hudson River: Shad turns the tide on the Hudson" by Alexander Aldrich, The Saratogian, 2009 December 27

Item: Newspaper article, "Old Champlain Canal on the way back: Schuylerville rallies behind restoration," publication unknown, 1974 September 22