

From the Editor...

How many of you saw the movie National Treasure? If Nicolas Cage can steal the Declaration of Independence from the National Archives in Washington D.C., then custodians of archival records need to be more aware of their surroundings. Though Nicolas Cage's role was a Hollywood creation, theft of artifacts or records across the world is not; it is a billion dollar industry!

Last October, I had the privilege of attending a collections security workshop at the National Archives in Washington D.C. The workshop spent a good amount of time highlighting thefts across the country, and awareness that all places are targets, from the smallest historical society to the National Archives and all been have been victims of theft. Over 75% of theft is internal; archival staffs need to be aware of their collections and surroundings and not allow the opportunity for records to be stolen. Thefts are done by young, old, new or trusted employees. People steal for several reasons: value of the item(s), hired to steal, personal gain/collection and financial problems.

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Hall of Records Hosting Records Security Training on May 1, 2013

Records Security for Archival Collections – a special presentation at the Albany County Hall of Records.

Did you know?

- Almost all historical records repositories have experienced theft of historical documents, whether they know it or not. Many thefts remain undetected, leaving thieves unidentified and records lost.
- Nearly all thefts are committed by employees, volunteers or authorized researchers.

Albany County Clerk, Thomas G. Clingan and Albany County Hall of Records are pleased to sponsor, "To Preserve and Protect: Security Solutions for Albany County's Historical Records" on Wednesday, May 1 at 10AM.

With careful planning, awareness of warning signs, and practical security solutions, you can reduce the window of opportunity for historical record theft. Maria Holden, Chief of Archival Services at the New York State Archives and Pamela Cooley, Archivist, Documentary Heritage Program, will present an overview on archival security. Their aim is to prepare participants for immediate action to strengthen their local security programs. Topics include staff awareness, insider theft, ways to control access, and developing institutional security policies.

In addition, ACHOR will be celebrating "May Day" with practical information about disaster planning and recovery on display. May Day (May 1) is a grassroots effort in the archival community each year to remind one another of the importance of taking time to review and update emergency planning efforts. Simple steps such as conducting an evacuation drill, reviewing emergency phone trees and identifying records especially vulnerable to water damage can go a long way toward preparedness in the event of a disaster. It's easy to devote our attention to more current concerns and put off planning for a disaster. May Day helps to bring the importance of protecting our collections into focus! To register for records security training, RSVP to Jill Brothers at jbrothers@albanycounty.com or 487-5146.

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It is important that if you have been victimized by internal theft or by a researcher, get the word out about your missing records to local and state police agencies, National Archives and other repositories. The Hall of Records will continue records security training of staff and invited guests with a workshop here on Tivoli Street on May 1 at 10AM. Lastly, to further safeguard our Archival Collection, security cameras were installed inside and outside of the Hall of Records.

It is satisfying to report that the Hall of Records received grant funding to preserve our Dutch Records Collection. The grant from the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund was awarded to preserve our sixteen Dutch volumes dating from 1632-1835. This will allow for our vendor to stabilize the volumes, scan the pages and create permanent microfilms from the created images. Once the grant is completed, access to part of Albany County's history will be very easy to attain.

Author Marguerite Holloway recently released a book called, *"The Measure of Manhattan: The Tumultuous Career and Surprising Legacy of John Randel JR., Cartographer, Surveyor, Inventor."* Part of Marguerite's work brought her to the Hall of Records in 2011 to research Mr. Randel and to capture some of his work stored in our Archival Collection, especially the 1810 Albany Post Road Map that he surveyed between Albany and Manhattan. It was our pleasure to assist her in research of such a deserving subject as Albany's John Randel JR who actually laid out the grid of Manhattan, New York. In this issue of Tivoli Times, I interviewed Marguerite Holloway about her book and the impact of John Randel JR.

Lastly, this May will be the 65th anniversary of the Albany Tulip Festival. Here at the Hall of Records we have one cubic foot of tulip festival photos; one from 1972, is included on the back cover. In reviewing the photos, I realized how much work the City of Albany has done over the years to make this annual event a huge success. This year's festival will be held on May 11 and 12 in Washington Park. My wife Sue and I look forward to attending as we do each year. The tulips are fantastic and the amount of work involved is very evident and very appreciated by visitors. Don't miss it!

Craig Carlson, *Editor*

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The Albany County Clerk and the Hall of Records receives a LGRMIF Grant

By Patricia Bryce

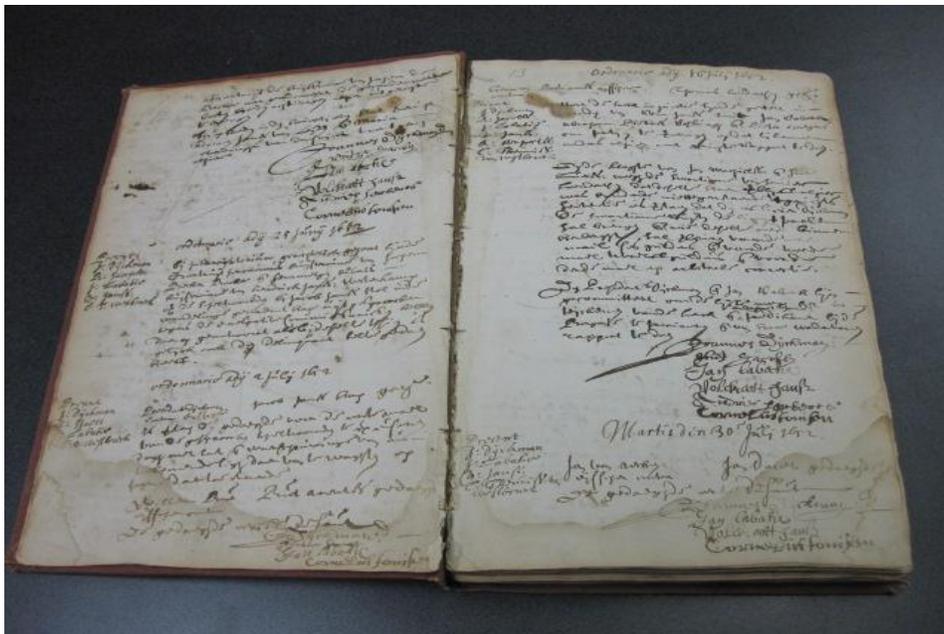
The Albany County Hall of Records applied for a grant to provide preservation and better access to our Dutch Records Collection. The Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF), during the 2012-2013 grant cycles, awarded the Hall of Records a grant in the amount of \$52,710. This allowed us to hire a company with expertise in preservation and conservation and familiarity with how these precious records should be handled.

This collection runs from the early administration (1652) into the early part of the 19th century (1835). The collection consists of sixteen volumes of the Dutch court, real property and financial records. They are written in a mixture of English and Dutch. With the exception of the New York State Archives, this is probably the largest well know public collection of Dutch records in the Nation. These records have been housed in uncontrolled climates in various locations for many decades. They have been exposed to fluctuations of temperature and humidity levels, subjected to fire, water and rodents. Today, they are housed at the Hall of Records in a climate and humidity-controlled vault in order to minimize any further deterioration.

The Hall of Records would like to preserve this collection of unique Dutch records which are permanent links to the past and are not only of local importance but also of national significance. The ravages of time, acidic paper, acidic links, usage, temperature and humidity, UV light, improper storage and unforeseen disasters threaten their existence and without proper care, these irreplaceable records may be lost.

Our ultimate goal is to have these records made more available to the public by providing high quality digital images of historical materials as well as creating a permanent microfilm copy for preservation. Greater access to these documents would provide a significant resource for educators, historians, genealogists and the public in general to look at the early history of upstate New York.

The Hall of Records future plan is to have these records searchable on our Website, to prepare exhibits to be used for libraries, students and schools and to invite the public to our facility to use the Dutch Records Collection.



A Dutch volume to be preserved with funding from the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund.

Albany County Almshouse History

By Meredith Cherven-Holland

In 1652, the first Almshouse in Albany was established by the Dutch Reformed Church on what is now Broadway, Beaver Street and the 'Ruttenkill' stream (now buried), with the purpose of serving Dutch settlers in need. As the population increased, the Dutch Reformed Church established a second Almshouse on Norton Street in 1684. In 1686, the city of Albany was formally established by the Dongan Charter which designated hundreds of acres not to be encumbered by commercial or residential use; 116 acres would later be used as the Albany County Almshouse Farm. In 1788, an Act was passed by the New York State Legislature officially establishing the Albany County Almshouse as well as the position of Overseer of the Poor in charge of the city's charitable endeavors.

In 1801, the City of Albany was authorized to construct an Almshouse on New Scotland Avenue. By 1815, a 50-acre almshouse square was created. It was bounded by Woodlawn Avenue (southern boundary of the city at the time), east by New Scotland Avenue, north by Myrtle Avenue and west by South Lake Avenue. In 1832, it became the city and county almshouse when an agreement was reached with the County Board of Supervisors abolishing "the distinction between city and county poor." After 1849, the City's Almshouse Superintendent acted as head of both the county and city welfare system. In 1900, The first Commissioner of Charities and Correction was appointed by the mayor pursuant to state law. The second Class Cities' Law provided that the Commissioner of Charities would ". . . have the general care, management, administration and supervision of the charities, almshouses, hospitals, houses of correction, orphan asylums and all other similar institutions the control or government of which belongs or is in trusted to the city." The Commissioner also served as head of the county almshouse and county welfare system.

The year 1826 brought the permanent establishment of the Albany County Almshouse complex at Almshouse Square between New Scotland Avenue and Academy Road. Originally, there were four buildings that cost \$14,000 to build for a population of 123 "inmates" (52 women, 38 children and 33 men). In 1850, the buildings were refurbished to include men's and women's dormitories, a dining hall, kitchen, chapel, hospital, and a separate pest house for incurables. In 1857, further specialization of the facility was implemented to accommodate the growing need (total population 419: 120 men and 299 women) and the varying social needs. A growing social awareness, evidenced by social reformers, began to push for better care for those receiving aid which, in turn, led to specialized facilities such as orphanages, hospitals, and mental institutions and diminished need for a multi-faceted complex such as the Almshouse.

In 1930, the county purchased land from the Shaker community for the purpose of constructing a new community residence. Once completed, approximately 200 of the Almshouse residents were transferred to this new building in Colonie, New York which was renamed the Ann Lee Home, after the Shaker leader, Mother Ann Lee. In 2008 this facility, along with the Albany County Nursing Home, were consolidated into one entity which operates to this day under the auspices of the Albany County Department of Residential Health Care Facilities.



Ann Lee Home and Hospital, 1930.
Courtesy of the New York State Archives.

ACHOR to Present Early Albany Exhibit at Albany County Nursing Home

By Virginia Farinacci

The Albany County Hall of Records has been invited to participate and display some archival records at the Albany County Nursing Home during the week of May 12 to 18, 2013, in a program called "The Capital District Then and Now." Our exhibit will include the following records:

- 1794 Simeon Dewitt Map of City of Albany
- 1866 Albany Ward Map
- 1946 Albany Ward Map
- 1926 Shaker Farm Map
- 1929 Sketch of Ann Lee Home
- 1806 photo of early Almshouse
- 1913 Photo of early Albany Market Place
- 1930s-1940s old Albany photos
- 1929-1931 photo of Airport scenes
- 1900 Albany City Directory ads
- 1857 inventory of Almshouse supplies
- 1919 Report of Superintendent of Almshouse
- 1918-1927 Register of Almshouse Inmates
- History of the Nursing Home

We also will be on hand to talk about the documents that are on display and to answer any questions about our Archival Collection. We would like to thank Executive Director, Gene Larrabee, and Event Coordinator, Christine Daniel for the opportunity to participate in this program.



289 New Scotland Avenue. June 28, 1938. Albany County Hall of Records Photo Collection.

Carlson's Corner-Marguerite Holloway

Marguerite Holloway is Professor of Journalism at Columbia University and has recently released a book called, *"The Measure of Manhattan: The Tumultuous Career and Surprising Legacy of John Randel JR., Cartographer, Surveyor, Inventor"*- a biography about Albany native John Randel JR. She came to the Hall of Records to research John Randel JR. in August 2011. I would like to thank Marguerite for acknowledging the Hall of Records Staff and myself in her book.

How did you come to the decision to write a biography about Albany native John Randel JR? I wrote a piece for the New York Times on May 16, 2004 called URBAN TACTICS: "I'll Take Mannahatta." Ecologist Eric Sanderson wanted to create a model of what Manhattan looked like in 1609 just before the arrival of Europeans. He used John Randel JR. surveys of Manhattan, which came approximately 200 years later, as a basis. I was really impressed with Randel.

How long did you research your subject? Started my research in 2007-2008 and wrote the book in 2011 and it was released in 2012. It was hard work, but I loved researching – chasing John Randel JR through the archives.

Can you tell the reader a brief background about yourself? I was born/raised in Berkeley, California. I earned a BA in English from Brown University and MS in Journalism from Columbia University. I am based in New York City. I am an assistant professor, Director, Science & Environmental Journalism at Columbia University in New York. Most of my career was at Scientific American.

Can you give the reader an overview about John Randel JR, especially surveying Manhattan Island and the 1810 Albany Post Road? He did a lot of work on infrastructure and lived a long productive life for this time period. He did survey work in and around Albany, NY. He laid out the grid plan of present day Manhattan. The grid plan was implemented from 1811-1818 after a few years of planning. He had teams of helpers assist him over the years. His 1810 Albany Post Road captured the journey from Albany to Manhattan. He also was involved in canal designs. He actually had a proposal for the Erie Canal. He worked on the Chesapeake & Delaware Canal and worked on early railroad planning. He was a really interesting person.

John Randel really was an impressive figure; is his work is still having an impact on people's daily lives today? Yes, everybody lives in Randel's grid. Visitors to Manhattan can find their way around, navigate the area. Visitors can feel at home. The Albany Post Road was a popular mail route between Albany and Manhattan on the east side of the Hudson River.

Can you tell us about Albany native John Randel JR's early years? John JR (1787-1865) was from a large family anywhere estimated between 9-11 siblings. He was the son of John Randel and Catherine Fairchild. His father John was a jeweler and brass founder. His mother Catherine was from New Jersey. The Randel family was part of the local Presbyterian community.

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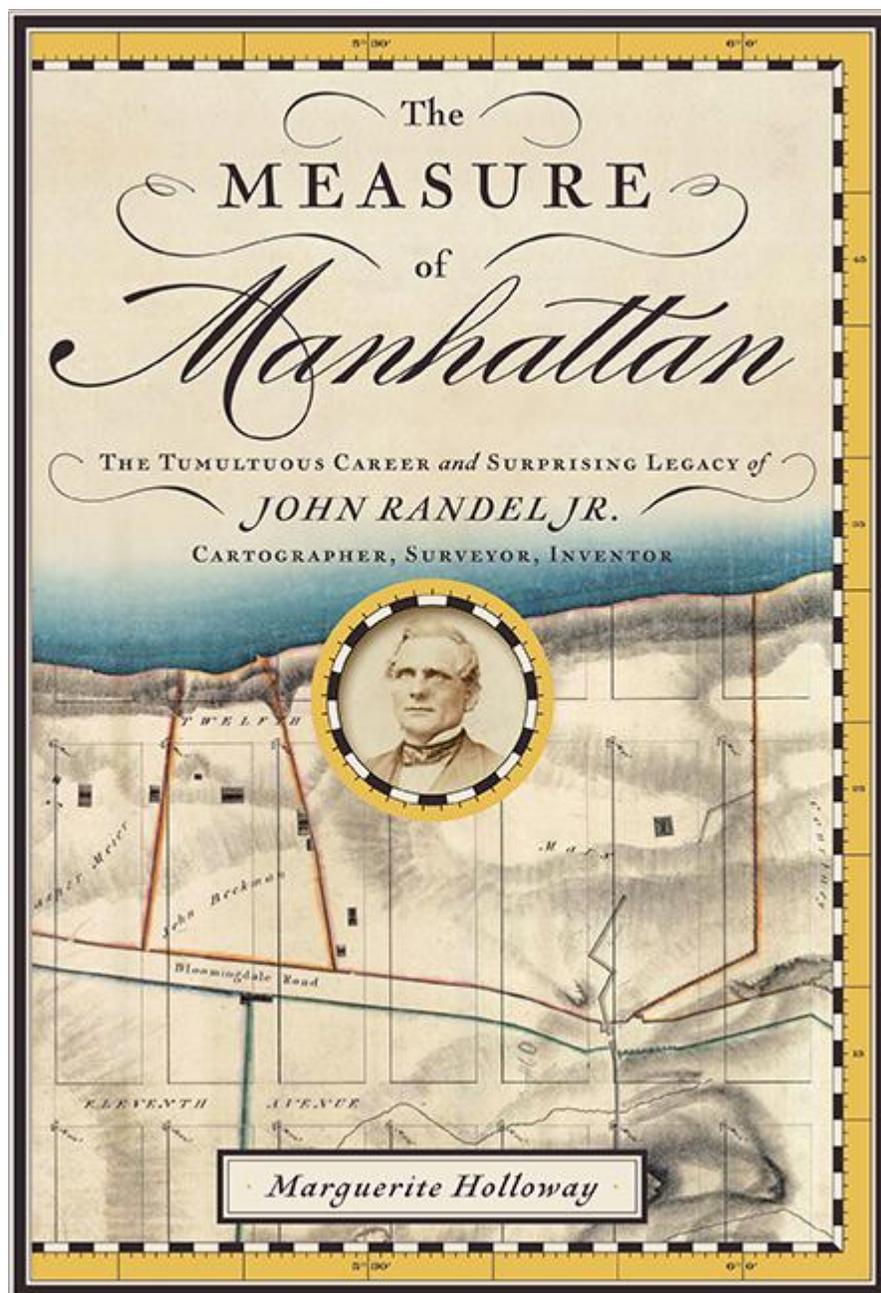
Carlson's Corner-Marguerite Holloway

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Was the Hall of Records helpful in your book research? The Hall of Records was enormously helpful! I used an image of the 1810 Albany Post Road map in the book, which is a great map also receipts for his work in Albany. The Hall of Records staff was so nice and helpful.

Hobbies? Running, working, writing, family time with husband and kids, reading children's books.

Any new books planned? Nothing planned yet but I do have a few ideas.



Marguerite Holloway, 2013. *The Measure of Manhattan: The Tumultuous Career and Surprising Legacy of John Randel JR., Cartographer, Surveyor, Inventor.*

Published by W.W. Norton & Company.

Book jacket design-Mark Melnick.

Book jacket map-detail from John Randel JR, map #60 used with permission of the City of New York and the Office of the Manhattan Borough President.

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Image courtesy of City of Albany Office of Special Events.

The Albany County Hall of Records is a capital resource for the agencies of the local government it serves and to the citizens of the City and County of Albany. The Hall of Records is jointly funded by the City and County of Albany and is under the jurisdiction of Albany County Clerk, Thomas G. Clingan. Our purpose is to preserve, promote and make available the recorded history of Albany County to its citizens in the most efficient and cost effective way possible. We want to say thank you to all the people, past and present, who have made the Hall of Records an invaluable asset to our county.



1972 Albany Tulip Festival. Albany Mayor Erastus Corning II, 1971 Tulip Queen Janet Schlegel and 1972 Finalists. Albany County Hall of Records Photo Collection.