

From the Editor...

This month the Hall of Records will be celebrating its 10th Anniversary at 95 Tivoli Street. Prior to 95 Tivoli Street, the Hall of Records was located at 250 South Pearl Street from 1987–2001 and 27 Western Avenue from 1982-1986. Looking back to move day 10 years ago, nothing was better than a January 2001 snow-storm to assist in our move. We survived the move and the snow and were up and running in no time. Regardless of location, we always look to meet the needs of our researchers and agencies.

Actually, next year, 2012, will be the 30th anniversary of the inception of the Hall of Records. ...*Continued on page 3*



Moving from 250 South Pearl Street, 2001

Hall of Records to Celebrate 10th Anniversary at 95 Tivoli Street

In honor of the Albany County Hall of Records 10th Anniversary at 95 Tivoli Street, Albany County Clerk Thomas G. Clingan announced that there will be an open house at the Hall of Records on April 27, 2011 from 2-4 PM. This current location is the third home of the Hall of Records; the first was the Albany High School Annex at 27 Western Avenue from 1982 -1986, followed by 250 South Pearl Street from 1986-2001.



2001 Hall of Records Ribbon Cutting L-R. Albany County Clerk Thomas G. Clingan, Albany County Executive Michael Breslin, Albany Mayor Gerald Jennings, Albany County Legislature Chairman Charles Houghtaling and Albany County Comptroller Michael Connors

Exhibits and tours of the Hall of Records will be available, including areas normally off-limits to visitors. ACHOR presently holds 12,890 cubic feet of archival records and 75,025 cubic feet of inactive records, all stored in a secure warehouse setting that is significantly more cost-effective for records storage than regular office space. A 1,000 square-foot concrete vault located within the building stores the most rare and valuable records, including the original 1686 Dongan Charter of the City of Albany.

ACHOR is a joint program of the County and City of Albany, making records available to the public in a state-of-the-art facility. Among the items on special display on April 27 will be: Albany County Sheriff's Department Bertillon Mug Shots, 1896; Civil War Allotments and Bounty Records, 1862-1864; Register of Manumitted Slaves, 1800-1828 and the Court of Fort Orange and Beverwijck Minutes, 1652-1656.

If you are interested in attending the open house or a tour of the Hall of Records, please contact Deputy Director Craig Carlson: By phone at (518) 436-3663 ext. 204 By email at ccarlson@albanycounty.com

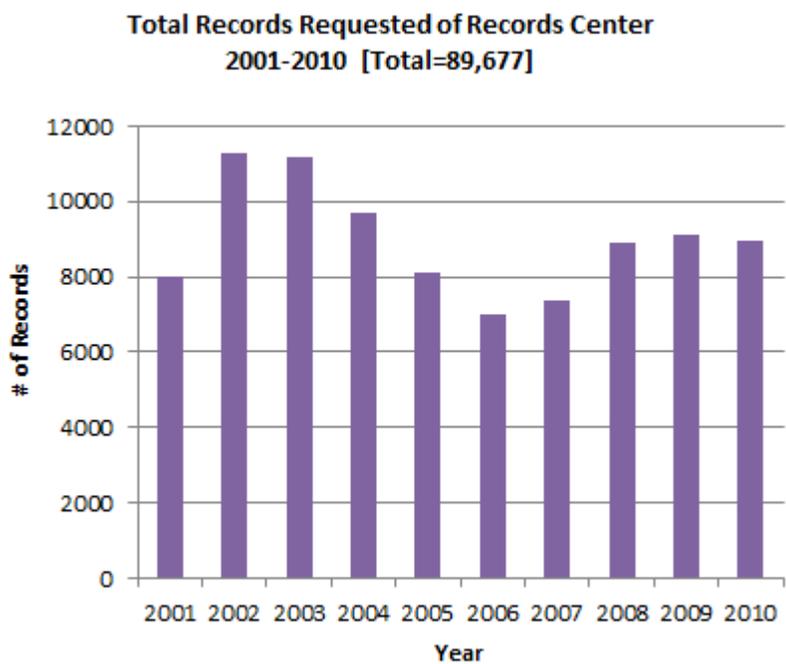
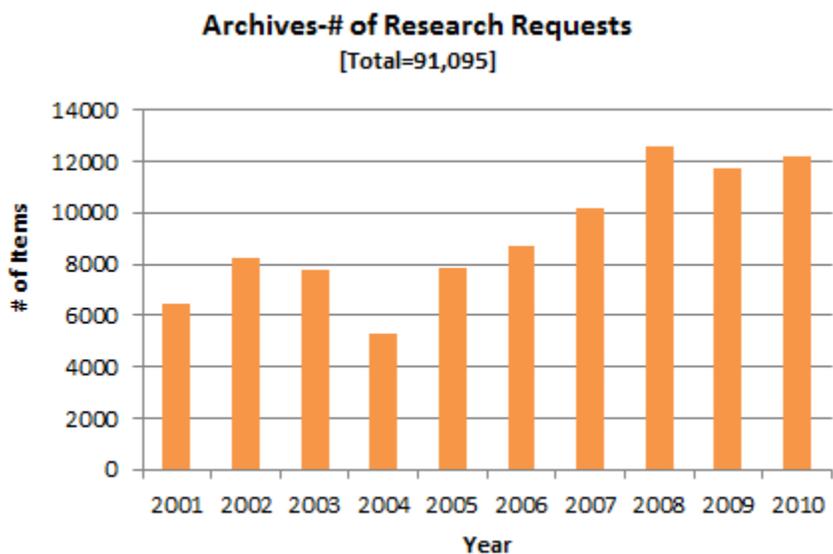
Further information about the Albany County Hall of Records and directions to the facility can be found at www.albanycounty.com/achor online.

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Hall of Records Statistics 2001-2010

By Jill Brothers and John Paul Ciejka



In Honoring the 150 anniversary on the Civil War, the Hall of Records will be having Robert Arnold III speaking on May 19, 2011 at 10 AM. Mr. Arnold's talk is entitled "Leaning into the Storm: Albany County in the Years Before the Civil War."

Robert W. Arnold III, a career public historian, is retired from the New York State Archives. He was a historical archaeologist and serves as a Commissioner of Historic Resources for the City of Albany, he was the Albany County Historian. He has taught Colonial America, Revolutionary America, American Civil War, New York State and U.S. Immigration and Ethnic History at the College of Saint Rose and/or Excelsior College.

Seating for Mr. Arnold's talk is limited. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP: Deputy Director Craig Carlson at 436-3663 ext. 204 or ccarlson@albanycounty.com

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From the Editor, *continued from cover page*

The archival records that were popular at our inception are still the most popular today. The most requested records then and now are: census, deeds, directories, marriages and naturalizations.

In this issue of Tivoli Times, I have started an interview page, which is called Carlson's Corner for Questions, which will be a staple in upcoming issues. Our first interviewee John Esek, a long-time employee who has filmed and scanned much of the Archival Collection.

One of the series of the Archival Collection that we are highlighting in this issue is the Albany County Sheriff's Department Bertillon ID Cards. In 2008, John Esek and John Paul Ciejka scanned the 14,000 ID Cards for use by our researchers and also, to safeguard the originals. Actually, among our biggest fans are the school kids of Albany County; for instance the ID Cards (aka mug shots) are used extensively in our Hands-on-History outreach program. The program introduces primary source documents like these ID Cards into the local classrooms.

Lastly, I'd like to express my gratitude for the work and dedication of our late colleague, Paula Forezzi who was my immediate supervisor when I arrived at the Hall of Records. Her expert tutelage was invaluable to me and greatly appreciated.

Craig Carlson, *Editor*
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Hall of Records move to
95 Tivoli St. Jan. 2001
Craig Carlson Collection



Carlson's Corner for Questions: John Esek

By Craig Carlson

When did you start working at the Hall of Records? What is your background?

I started at ACHOR on April 15, 1994. I am originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I was in the United States Navy from 1962-1969 and served in both the Atlantic and Pacific Submarine Forces. I worked at my previous job for 23 years as an Engineering Laboratory Technician for a newly started company that was founded by former employees of GE. The major part of my job was assembly and testing of prototype machines and newly designed bearings and seals and other mechanical devices. The company was down-sized and my job was eliminated. The work was interesting and the job lasted for a long time. I have no regrets for the years I spent there.

Over the years you have microfilmed a great deal of Albany County history; any idea of how much you have done?

Actually, I have never read much of the information that I have filmed; the process did not allow time to browse through any of the documents for content. A guess for the number of frames I have filmed over the last 17 years would be hard to make, but it must be over 1 million frames; most of them 35MM.

Is there any record or records series that you enjoyed microfilming the most?

I have filmed some books containing photographs of wanted posters. At the time, I said that you could tell these people were criminals just by the way they looked. They just looked like criminals – you know what I mean? While I was doing this work, I found myself sitting around a table with some friends one evening. As I looked at them, it seemed to me that they looked a lot like the people in the posters. They were not criminals, of course, but they just had that look about them.

Your job in microfilming helps preserve our County history, any thoughts on the important role you play in safeguarding these records and for their future use by researchers?

It is gratifying to know that the efforts of my work at preservation of this information might be useful to some one a hundred years from now. I have signed my name to many “Certificates of Camera Operator” on the film; and my name will last for perhaps a hundred or two hundred years to come – long after I am gone.

Can you describe the work that is done before the microfilmed records make it to the search room for use by researchers?

Before the documents or books are filmed, they must go through a sometimes very long and arduous task of preparing (“prepping”) them. Once a year, we receive boxes of documents from the Clerk’s Office called warrants, transcripts and the like. These boxes contain thousands of documents that must be checked to see that they are in correct order and properly numbered and legible. Filming these documents can take many weeks or months to complete.

Carlson's Corner for Questions: John Esek

Continued from p 4.

Prepping books must be done with great care. If I make a mistake, when the finished film goes through quality control the inspector must catch the error, note it on the report and point out the mistake to me. A process known as “doing a retake” must be done. This is a messy process. I get embarrassed and the film becomes hard for the searcher to use. The goal in prepping and shooting is perfection. NO ONE LIKES RETAKES.

What part of your job interests you the most?

When I was a kid, I liked technical stuff. My Lionel train layouts were a mass of wires and switches and lights. I have always enjoyed turning knobs and flipping switches. Operating the cameras during the filming process requires switch-throwing and knob-turning all the time. I have also dabbled in photography from time to time. Being an “operator” of stuff can be fun.

Hobbies? Last book you read?

I guess my hobby is music. I sing in my church choir. I own a digital piano and I “fool around” with music and I very much enjoy studying music theory. Also, for my own enjoyment, I learn songs to sing “in the shower” or in the car or at home. Songs from Broadway shows and the old standards are my favorites. I do stirring renditions of songs like “Stardust”, “Danny Boy”, “La Vie En Rose” and “Falling in Love with Love.” As long as I don’t sing too loud or too late at night my neighbors don’t pound on the walls much. I live in an apartment. I am currently rereading (for the fourth time) a book called “Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.”



*John Esek filming a
1963 Albany County
Sheriff's Department
Commitment volume.*

Pass It On: Preservation Week April 24-30, 2011

By Meredith Cherven-Holland

Some 630 million items in archives, museums and libraries require immediate attention and care. Approximately 80% of institutions have no paid staff for collections care and 22% have no collections care personnel at all. Some 2.6 billion items are not protected by an emergency plan and over 20% of institutions have no staff trained to handle collections in an emergency. As natural disasters in recent years have taught us, cultural resources as well as personal, family and community collections are in jeopardy if a disaster strikes.

Here are five basic steps you can take to preserve your family's treasures:

Avoid Possible Risks. If a disaster were to strike, what would you most want to keep? Evaluate your storage and display areas for potential problems like water, mold, pests, and breakage. Relocate your treasures and take other steps to reduce risks e.g. put items in protective boxes and folders.

Store Safely in Stable Conditions. Store treasures away from direct sunlight, harsh temperatures and fluctuating humidity. Do not store anything you value in a basement, porch or attic. Learn what storage options are available for different materials e.g. documents, photographs, textiles, and electronic media.

Make a Duplicate. Copy treasures like photographs, letters, and newspapers whenever possible. Store the original safely away from potential harm and use the copy for sharing. Digital copies are great for sharing but remember they need preserving too. If possible, it's best to have several copies of your most valued items.

Handle with a Clean, Gentle Touch. Protect family treasures by keeping them away from dust, dirt, oil, food and other hazards by handling items carefully, with clean hands.

Ask a Professional. Always seek professional advice before trying at-home repairs or cleaning treasures yourself.

Help celebrate **Preservation Week** by raising your preservation awareness! Here are more tips from the experts!

- 1) **Nebraska PBS Station website: Preserving Your Treasures a website about what you can do to protect and preserve the things of importance in your life:** <http://www.netnebraska.org/extras/treasures/index.htm>
- 2) **American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (AIC): Caring for Your Treasures** [AIC - Caring for Your Treasures](#)
- 3) **New York State Historical records Advisory Board's 9/11 Memory and History videos on Caring for your Treasures:** <http://www.nyshrab.org/memory/videos.shtml>

1Source: *A Public Trust at Risk: The Heritage Health Index Report on the State of Americas Collections*, 2005 Heritage Preservation, Inc. More information at www.heritagehealthindex.org.

For further questions and assistance, please call the Archives at the Albany County Hall of Records, 518-436-3663.

SENDING MONEY HOME TO MOTHER

By Robert W. Arnold III

New York's soldiers signed allotment rolls, sending a portion of their monthly pay home to a wife or mother for their care. A Union Army private was paid thirteen dollars per month, raised in mid-1864 to sixteen dollars. Typical entries on an allotment roll for Company B of the 91st New York Volunteers, a regiment recruited in Albany, Clinton, Columbia and Schenectady Counties, shows Private Charles Walters sending eight dollars a month home to his wife, Catherine. Private Ferdinand Kline sent ten dollars each month to his father. One August 1862 entry in the diary of twenty-year-old Caroline Cowles Richards from Canandaigua reads, "We saw by the papers that the volunteers of the regiment (the 126th New York Volunteers, raised in Ontario, Seneca and Yates Counties) before leaving camp at Geneva allotted over \$15,000 of their monthly pay to their families and friends at home." In October of 1864 the men of Ulster County's 120th NYSV sent home \$31,000, 80 per cent of the Regiment's pay.

The allotment rolls include significant information and in the aggregate are a sort of social portrait of the men of New York's many regiments. Listed are the names of soldiers, the ranks they held, where and when they enlisted, the units in which they served, to whom they sent money and their relation to those recipients, and sometimes their fates.

There are lines drawn through some names and terse notations – James Rice of the 18th New York State Volunteers, in 1861 "shot on the Fairfax Road." Typical are entries for men from a Saratoga County regiment: Isaac Watts Barnes "Was taken prisoner at Harper's Ferry VA, Sep 15 1862." Aaron Brooks Quivey "Was shot while on Picket duty at Spotsylvania May 21st 1864." James Roach was "Discharged on account of exposure at the Battles of Antietam and South Mountain." David Jones of Edinburg: "Wounded and left on Battlefield, taken prisoner and has not been heard from since." Charles Abner Thornton of Greenfield was "killed by guerillas Aug 19 1864 near Charlestown Va. while at a farm-house purchasing provisions." Private George Washington Cornell, also of Clifton Park, "Died of typhoid fever on board the *Steamship Daniel Webster*." Sometimes there are letters with the allotment rolls: "Please change my record I want to send my money to my mother." At the bottom of the note is a co-signature from Mom - "I want this, too."

Other entries indicate character: Peter H. Brewer of Clifton Park, Saratoga County, was "Discharged March 15 1862 on account of intemperance." John Fonda of Galway "Deserted the day after going to camp." Given the horrors of battle, the prevalence of disease, the demanding and unending physicality of a soldier's life, and the rudimentary medical care of that day, it is probably remarkable that far more soldiers didn't end up as did Brewer or Fonda, or like Luke Welch of Saratoga Springs, who "Became insane and (was) sent to Utica Asylum."

As it was, the allotment money was just not enough. With so many of the state's able-bodied men away, the families of soldiers were dogged by hardship throughout the war. Poverty, widespread pre-war, became worse and more frequently found; the charities and almshouses of the time were not inadequate to the need for relief. Real wages lagged far behind the war-time inflationary rise in prices. The Civil War made hard lives harder. Despite the efforts of soldiers far from home to provide for their loved ones, economic and social dislocation worsened for the poorest New Yorkers, whether urban or rural. The costs of the war were far greater than an infantry private's thirteen dollars a month could alleviate, no matter how much of it he allotted. Sometimes the pressures of poverty and loneliness show up – then, the line is drawn through the wife's name, and the entry reads, "Wife ran off."

A version of this article previously appeared in New York Archives.

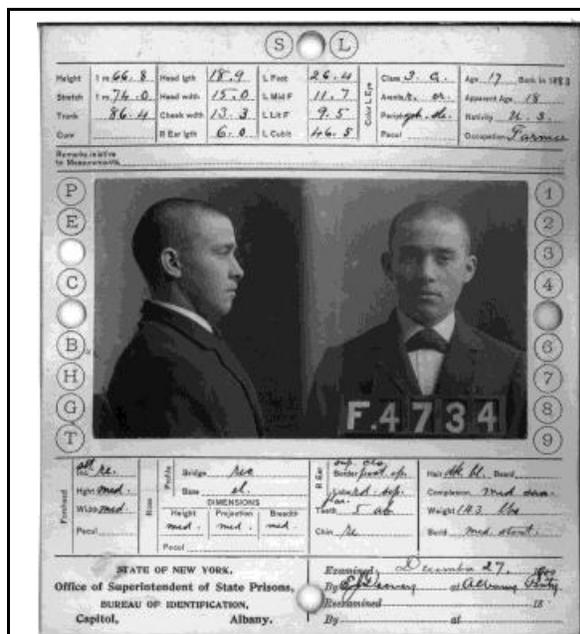
Collection Highlight: Albany County Penitentiary Bertillon ID Cards, 1892-1917

By John Paul Ciejka

Our country seems to have a deep fascination with the criminal world, including the system we have in place to “control” criminal acts and protect people from ever really knowing that world. We’ve got a dizzying array of television programs showcasing the various parts of the criminal justice system: shows about prison life, detective work and court room dramas, all punctuating the fact that the criminal culture has gone mainstream.

Members of the public can fulfill this interest here at the Albany County Hall of Records by utilizing our Bertillon Criminal ID collection, 1892-1917. The Bertillon system (also known as “Anthropometry”) was developed by Parisian Alphonse Bertillon who in the late 1800s became the head of the Paris criminal identification unit of the police. This system included a two-part photograph with one side view and one front view and was a precursor for the mug shots used today. Careful measurements of the criminal’s head and body were taken as well as notes about particular tattoos, scars, and personality traits. This info, coupled with the photographs became the first scientific system used by police to identify both new criminals and repeat offenders. Up until the 1890s, criminals could only be identified based on eyewitness accounts, which were known to be unreliable.

In 2008, the Archival Staff of the Hall of Records spent 8 months scanning roughly 14,000 5.7 x 6.4 inch criminal ID cards and our electronic inventory system references each of these cards by name, ID #, examination date and crime committed and they are all searchable by one of our knowledgeable search room staff members. We are hoping to make the scans of these cards directly available to the public via the workstations in our search room so that researchers can perform their own searches and printouts and following that may implement these files onto our website (www.albanycounty.com/achor). These cards are just one of the fascinating treasures in our collection and we hope you will come see what we have to offer.



Clarence Stalker, 1900, Petit Larceny



Clarence Stalker, 1917, Breaking & Entering with intent to commit a crime

IN MEMORIAM: PAULA FOREZZI

By Patricia Bryce

Paula Forezzi began her tenure at the Albany County Hall of Records, in 1986, as a Microfilm Aide, when we were located at 250 South Pearl Street. Paula continued to work for the Hall of Records in its present location, 95 Tivoli Street, until her retirement in July of 2009. Clearly, she had a long and productive history with the Hall of Records.

In August of 1987, a little over a year after she started, Paula was promoted to Deputy Micrographics Supervisor. She continued in that capacity until March of 1989, when she was promoted once again, this time to Supervisor of the Micrographics Unit. She remained the supervisor of this unit until her retirement.

During her time at the Hall of Records, Paula and her staff were instrumental in making the Microfilming Unit, one of the best in New York State. In the mid 1990's, the New York State Archives and Records Administration invited the Hall of Records to become one of the sites that would inspect and quality control rolls of microfilm, produced by local governments throughout the state, under the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund. Paula was the person who oversaw the thousands of rolls of microfilm which were inspected. She was one of only a few people in local government supervising a full service micrographics unit at that time.



Paula Forezzi

In more recent years, Paula was able to make the transition from microfilming records to scanning records for our city and county agencies. In 2005, Paula helped to set up a scanning program for seven of our county agencies (County Clerk, Civil Service, Economic Development-Conservation and Planning, Environmental Health, General Services, Public Works and the Sewer Department) which provided better access to their oversized records, especially to maps and building plans. Scanning made these records more easily accessible to

the public and to these seven agencies in particular.

Family was everything to Paula; she was dedicated to her family, especially to her grandchildren; they were her pride and joy. She was always showing their pictures and talking about how much fun they were to be around. She also had a great love for her animals. She was a hard worker and took great pride in whatever project she was involved with.

Paula passed away on January 4, 2011; she will be sorely missed by her co-workers and her many friends. She will also be missed for the contributions she made to the Albany County Hall of Records throughout the years of her dedicated service..

ACHOR Staff

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Robert W. Arnold III
Consultant



Hall of Records Warehouse, 2010.
Courtesy of Albany County Hall of Records Archival Collection.

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.



Future Home of the Hall of Records, 2000.
Courtesy Craig Carlson Photo Collection.