



STATE LIBRARY NEWS

For the People, the Government and the Libraries of New York State

Summer 2010

LEGISLATORS: FASTER ACCESS

Would you like to know what the State Health Department and ENCON say about West Nile disease, or what the State Insurance Department publishes about unemployment insurance? You can now go to a one-stop location to link with state agency Web sites and their full text documents about these and other legislative issues. For easy access to New York state agency online full text data, visit <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/ils/nyserver.html> and click on the name of the agency you want.

AWARD FOR OUTREACH

The State Library received an Outreach to Unaffiliated Health Professionals Award. This \$20,369 grant enables the Library to give unaffiliated health professionals direct access to the online medical resources essential to high quality medical care.

Over 450 health care centers in New York state provide primary care to vulnerable populations. But physicians at these centers often do not have access to important online medical information. In addition to providing access, the State Library will hold 10 classes and 10 webinars about effective use of online biomedical resources. The Middle Atlantic Region of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine granted this award.

STATE LIBRARY HOSTS EXHIBIT "FOREVER FREE"



Abraham Lincoln was photographed by Alexander Gardner on February 5, 1865.

"Forever Free, Abraham Lincoln's Journey to Emancipation" will be displayed at the State Library from September 3 to October 14, 2010.

This traveling exhibit takes a fresh look at President Lincoln's efforts toward the abolition of slavery during the Civil War. Six sections ranging from about 1809 to the 1860s focus on young Lincoln's America, the House dividing, war for the Union, the Emancipation Proclamation, the role of black soldiers in the Civil War, and the final months of the Civil War and Lincoln's life.

In conjunction with this exhibit, on September 19, the State Library will display its manuscript of the Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation,

the only surviving copy in Lincoln's handwriting. Other special events related to the exhibit include reenactors of historical figures, music and a play from the Civil War era, a discussion about black soldiers in the Civil War, and two films, *Amistad* and *Abe Lincoln in Illinois*. Dates and locations of these events are posted on the State Library's Web site at <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/library/lincoln/schedule.htm>.

Organized by the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, New York, NY, "Forever Free" uses reproductions of rare historical documents from these prestigious institutions. The exhibit is sponsored in cooperation with the American Library Association and is funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

LIFELINE

The recession has landed people in situations they have never faced before. State agencies have a growing number of programs that can help families make ends meet. Assistance in finding a job, obtaining unemployment insurance, food, child care, heat, meeting health needs, and a host of other supportive programs are out there. But finding the appropriate resource and navigating the system can

Continued on page 4

SPECIAL THANKS FOR EXTRA SUPPORT

We deeply appreciate those of you who joined the Friends of the New York State Library at the \$50 or more levels. Your support helps preserve the heritage of all New Yorkers and is of major significance in sustaining the vital activities of the State Library and the Friends.

Jane & Frank Alessandrini
Barbara S. Beverley
Jean Clancy Botta
Doris Burke
Joseph & Joan Burke
Jean Burns
Jean & Clesson Bush
Joan Coogan
Nancy Johnsen Curran
George A. Damiano
Marilyn E. Douglas
Loretta Ebert
Senator Hugh T. Farley
Matt Finkenbinder
Judith F. Hodge
Kendall P. Jeter
Marvin C. Jones, III
Joseph Krausman
Liz Lane
Arden Leach
Christopher Lindsay
Wendall Lorang
George E. Martin
Barbara D. Mladinov
Laura-Eve Moss
Pearse Murray
Lucia Neval
Jane Meader Nye
Mary Redmond
Norman S. Rice
Zeb & JoAnne Robbins
Don Roper
Jane B. Schneider
Steven & Joyce Schreiber
Jack (John) Shufelt
Lorna Skaaren
Kathi Stanley
Lee Stanton
Katherine Storms
Robert Venables
Stewart C. Wagner
Diana Waite
Janet L. Wood
Jerome Yavarkovsky

WHITE FLYERS ON THE HUDSON



The *Washington Irving*, largest of the Hudson River's great White Flyers, was built in 1912.

On August 17, 1807, the *Clermont*, designed and navigated by Robert Fulton, steamed up the Hudson from New York to Albany in 32 hours and returned 4 days later. Financed by Robert Livingston, the *Clermont's* maiden voyage was a watershed event in the establishment of the Hudson River Dayline and its famous fleet of White Flyers.*

Realizing that steamboats on the Hudson offered a fast, reliable alternative to the discomforts of horse-drawn coaches and sailboats, Livingston wrested the monopoly to operate steamboats in New York state from John Fitch in 1798. Four years later, Livingston and Fulton agreed to run steamboats between New York and Albany. The end of their monopoly in 1824, when the U.S. Supreme Court (*Gibbons vs. Ogden*) ruled against the right of states to grant commercial monopolies, launched fierce competition.

In 1845, Daniel Drew's The People's Line gained control of Cornelius Vanderbilt's North River Steamboat Association and the operation of the New York/Albany run. Daniel Drew also took over most of the lines small communities had developed to connect places such as New York and Saugerties. By

1861, the *Mary Powell*, the Queen of the Hudson, was providing daily service between New York and Kingston. One of America's best known side wheelers, she set the standard for style and speed.

When Alfred Van Santvoord and John McB. Davidson acquired the *Daniel Drew* and the *Aremenia* in 1863, they formed the Hudson River Dayline. Although dayboats and nightboats were interchangeable at first, eventually special vessels were built for each. By 1864, the trip between New York and Albany took 9 hours, and the first full season of scheduled steamboat service between the two cities was operating. In 1880, with the *Albany* challenging the *Mary Powell's* speed, the Dayline's reputation surged. The *Hendrick Hudson*, the first million dollar steamboat on the Hudson, was launched in 1906. As the nation's swiftest and most elegant river boats steamed through the lush Hudson Valley, they were deemed the great White Flyers.

Passengers aboard liners such as the *Washington Irving* enjoyed 6-course dinners, fine wines, music, oil paintings, and fanciful interior designs. The

Continued on page 3

Visit the State Library's Web Site

<<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov>>



Access national and regional databases or search Excelsior, the online catalog of our holdings. Use the State Library Web site to:

- **Enjoy your summer cooking.** See the NYS Dept. of Health's food safety tips.
- **Read.** Check out suggested summer reading lists..

- **Come to the fair.** Learn when and where 2010 NY county fairs will take place.
- **Stay cool.** Find ways to prevent heat-related illness.

And Much More

For more information, call (518) 474-5355
Or e-mail refserv@mail.nysed.gov

Continued from page 2
revels on the *Washington Irving* ended abruptly one foggy morning in 1926. It sank after colliding with an oil barge pushed by a tugboat. Three people died.

The *Peter Stuyvesant*, the last vessel the Dayline built, entered service in 1927. Although the Hudson River Railroad, completed in 1851, offered an alternative, the Dayline provided regular steamboat service on the Hudson well into the 20th century. Profits dwindled during the Depression, but the Dayline managed to keep its head above water during the war years. In 1948, the *Robert Fulton's* last run from Albany to New York ended routine steamboat service on the Hudson.

* WHITE FLYERS ON THE HUDSON is based on materials in the collections of the State Library: William S. Clark, collector, Hudson River Steamboat and Navigation Ephemera Collection, 1866-1964; William B. Elmendorf Papers, 1875-1931; Charles Hallenbeck, ca. 1860-1930, Annals of Steamboating on the Hudson River, 1807-1908.

To access online finding aids go to: <<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/msscfa/>>.

You can also make a virtual visit to "Steamboats on the Hudson," a State Library exhibit that commemorated the 200th anniversary of Fulton's historic trip on the Hudson. To access go to: <<http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/mssc/steamboats>>.

BE A FRIEND

Join the Friends of the New York State Library. Get the deep satisfactions of preserving your heritage and sustaining a world-renowned public research library. You can also get special discounts at local bookstores. Select:

- **Sustaining Membership.** \$25. Receive a 20% discount on any single, in-stock title at the Book House & Little Book House (Stuyvesant Plaza) or Market Block Books (Troy) and 25% off one purchase at the Open Door Bookstore in Schenectady.
- **Contributing Membership.** \$50 or more. Receive all of the above plus database access, a gift, and recognition in *New York State Library News*.
- **Excelsior Membership.** \$100 or more. Receive all of the above plus a behind the scenes tour of the State Library, a \$10 copier card, and an invitation to a private special exhibit or program.

Every Friend also receives:

- **Free admission** to the Friends Annual Meeting featuring a talk by an author of a recently published book
- **Invitations** to other stimulating programs at the State Library.
- **A subscription** to the *New York State Library News*, an illustrated quarterly newsletter.

To join Friends of the New York State Library, complete the form below and mail it with your check.

New York State Library News

- Yes, I want to join Friends of the New York State Library. new member
 renewal

My check for \$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____ is enclosed

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make check payable to *Friends of the New York State Library* and mail to: Treasurer,
Friends of the New York State Library, PO Box 2247 Empire Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220.

HELP WANTED PROJECT

The State Library is partnering with WMHT and WCNY to produce "Help Wanted," a series of television programs about the effects of the current economic crisis on New Yorkers. The series focuses on people seeking jobs, their issues and solutions. The program also explores training for a new career, consumer protection, and family finances. Funded by a grant to public television stations WMHT and WCNY from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, "Help Wanted" airs statewide.

For broadcast times and dates, see your local tv listings. To view episodes on your computer, go to <http://helpwantedinteractive.org/>.

The project has also sent "A Help Wanted Toolkit" to public library systems throughout the state. The contents of the Toolkit are online. To access, go to: <http://helpwantedinteractive.org/toolkit/>.

New York State Library News

is produced by the Friends of the New York State Library and the New York State Library to inform New Yorkers about the collections and services of the State Library.
Editor: Miriam S. Soffer
Student: Sarah Morse
This newsletter is not published at state expense.

New York State Library News
New York State Library
N.Y.S. Education Department
Albany, NY 12230

State Library Hours

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call (518) 474-5355 or e-mail refserv@mail.nysed.gov.

NEW NETHERLAND SEMINAR: THE COMPANY STRIKES BACK



Portrait by Len Jamali, 2010

In 1673, **Cornelis Evertsen** (above), an admiral in the Dutch Zeelander Squadron, and Jacob Benckes, who had a small squadron of ships commissioned by the Admiralty of Amsterdam, led the invasion of Chesapeake Bay and the Restoration of colonial New York to the Dutch.

It is well known that Peter Stuyvesant surrendered New Netherland to the English in 1664, but less well known that the Dutch regained control of their former possession when the West India Company struck back in 1673. The New Netherland Institute's 33rd New Netherland Seminar (formerly the Rensselaerswijck Seminar) focuses on this Restoration. Five distinguished scholars will explore the European background leading to

the loss of New Netherland in 1664, the English takeover, the Dutch under English rule, the third Anglo-Dutch war, the Colve administration, and changes when New Netherland became New York again in 1674.

This exciting seminar about a little known period of New York history will be held September 25 at the Cultural Education Center, Albany. For more information, call the New Netherland Institute (518) 486-4815.

LIFELINE

Continued from page 1

be frustrating. Most of what is available can be discovered online. Local libraries have up-to-date information on these resources. Librarians help people access available services, and guide them to useful programs related to their situation. For information and support in finding it, go to your public library.

TELL US

Send comments and questions about the New York State Library and its newsletter to:
Mary Redmond
mredmond@mail.nysed.gov