

Crandall Public Library's

Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs

2002 Annual Report (9 pages)

by Todd DeGarmo, Director of the Center

Mission

The Center for Folklife, History & Cultural Programs at Crandall Public Library (CPL) is committed to original research and documentation, special collections, cultural programs and scholarly discussion on the living and historical heritage of the region. The Center helps to serve the library's mission of outreach as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Staffing

Director of the Center, Todd DeGarmo is full-time, professional staff and one of four department heads. He has worked for the library since 1986, first as a consultant and later as staff folklorist. He is A.B.D. in American Studies, holds a masters in Anthropology, and has 17 years experience in research, grantsmanship, and public programming in folk arts. He is also Records Management Officer and supervisor of the custodial staff.

Librarian/Archivist II, Albert Fowler, full-time professional staff, runs the daily operation of the Folklife Center's Reading Room, and management of the archives and special collections. He has masters degrees in library science and history with over 20 years experience in both public and academic libraries/archives around the country.

Reference Librarians, Katherine Chansky, Bruce Cole, and others help to cover the Center's Reading Room when Center staff are not available.

Volunteers, Lillian Beswick; George & Pat Long; Mike Moynihan.

Consultants, A. Patricia Long, George Long, and Laura Van Guilder, for processing of photograph collections funded by the NYS Archives-LGRMIF Grant 2001-2002. Nancy Scheemaker for researching *Extraordinary Women Book Box*.

Custodial Staff for DeGarmo's office moved to renovated space on the Vault Level, Director's Secretary's office to DeGarmo's old office, and new Assistant Director's office in old Secretary's office. New walls, mechanicals, furniture were needed, paid for by CPL.

Grants

This past year we received funding for our programs from the New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program, 4th year of multi-year funding (\$31,500), American Association of University Women-Adirondack Branch for *Book Box* (\$515), Glens Falls and Queensbury schools for programs (\$450), Capital District Library Council cataloging grant (\$1000). We also utilized the bulk of two grants from 2001: Parent Child Library Services (for Backyards) and NYS Archives (for preservation of photograph collections). In addition, Peggy Lynn donated her time to entertain during the Adirondack Women exhibition reception in December.

Archives & Special Collections

The Reading Room

Staffed for the public 22 hours per week (6 days a week). We had 2214 users asking 1838 reference questions, using 3639 items, making 5160 photocopies.

Queensbury 7th Grade History Project: The Folklife Center was one of several local repositories used by 7th graders to develop school projects on life in Queensbury prior to the Civil War. Albert Fowler represented the Library at the school's opening reception. We also received thank you notes from the students.

In addition, special collections have been by both local newspapers, for Chapman Museum exhibitions, for the upcoming published history of the Glens Falls fire department –among other projects. For Archives Week in October, Katherine Chansky and Albert Fowler developed and presented a new workshop, *Introduction to Genealogy Research*.

Holden Reference Collection:

Almost \$5000 was spent from the Library's book budget for 289 new books and materials chosen by DeGarmo in the subjects of local and regional history, genealogy, folk arts and folklife studies. In addition, the Friends of Crandall Public Library provided 996 titles from the public's donations to the Friends book sale.

Special Acquisitions

Research projects (eg. *Backyards, Rev Lives*) generate fieldwork and program files for the Library's Archives. In addition, Heidi Cole had donated many papers and publications concerning the Adirondack Mountain Club, the Queensbury schools and other local activities.

NYS Archives-LGRMIF Grant 2001-2002:

Completed \$12,089 project for materials and consultants (A. Patricia Long, George Long & Laura Van Guilder) to rehouse 3 major photograph collections.

Records Management:

As the Records Management Officer, DeGarmo culled Obsolete Library Records, based on the NYS Records Retention & Disposition Schedule.

Finding Aids for Special Collections

With the collection descriptions nearly complete for core collections, the Folklife Center staff will place finding aids on various catalogs statewide.

Holden Reference Book Collection

The inventory continues and Technical Services continues processing books left off the online catalog. Staff also worked with Technical Services to re-catalog the Genealogy section (929.1 to 929.9) to make the numbering consistent, ie. how-tos (929.1), family histories (929.2) and compilations of family resources (929.3).

Volunteers continue to work on our photograph collections and vertical files.

Research & Documentation

Special Projects generate fieldwork (slides, audio tapes, notes, objects and other materials) and program files (interpretative flyers, exhibition text, videos, and other materials) that become a part of the Library's Archives.

Backyards: Youth Documenting Community

This new ongoing program works with multiple sites for teens to learn photography and sound recordings for exhibitions, radio production, and collection building. Pilot projects in 3 communities in 3 counties of our service area: Schuylerville (Saratoga Co.), Lake George (Warren Co.), and Salem (Washington Co.). Partnerships with 6 organizations: Schuyler Canal Visitors Center, Lake George Afterschool Program, Battenkill Conservancy-NY, and libraries in Schuylerville, Lake George, and Salem.

We have our first grant, from the Parent Child Library Services (see above).

Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism

This illustrated talk by Todd DeGarmo for the Speakers program sponsored by the New York State for the Humanities, continues to grow as a research topic.

Crafts of the Rev War Community

This original exhibition researched and curated by Todd DeGarmo added a number of research books, handmade objects and artwork, and photographs to the collections.

Public Programs

Musical Mosaic: Alan Lomax exhibition

Exhibition until January 15. Italian photographs sent to Fine Arts Museum, Florida University; the rest back to NYC.

Over & Under, Around & Through: Basket Weaving in North Carolina

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery January 22 to March 25, curated by the John Campbell Folk School, and a part of the traveling folk art series called *Appalachian Views* from the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation and Institute for Cultural Partnerships. Added local materials on Taconic Baskets (mid-Hudson valley), Black ash baskets (Adirondacks), and basketry books from the Holden Collection.

India Celebration

In cooperation with the World Awareness Children's Museum:

1. Book Box: 2 collections of 25 childrens books for classroom loan and use within the Museum's new exhibition, *India & Her Neighbors*.
2. Reception (our 4th year) for the All Country Show of international childrens art in the Library's Friends Gallery. Food by Little India.
3. Music from India, featuring Veena Chandra on sitar, accompanied by her son and daughter, in the CPL Auditorium, January 30, 2002, 7 - 9 pm,
95 participants.

Small Farm Season

Reception with **115 participants** for the artist in the Folklife Gallery, catered by Susan Quillio (Greenwich) with music by Frank Orsini (Glens Falls) on May 1.

Photography exhibition by Julie Simms documenting the cycle of work on an organic farm in Washington County, in the Folklife Gallery April-September.

Exhibition cases: local basketry display, with Adirondack Black ash by Jack Leadley, Bliss McIntosh, Bill Smith, and Taconic baskets from mid-Hudson valley

Also showcase *American Farmland Trust, NE Organic Farms, Farms to Food.*

Backyards: Documenting Our Communities

This new program teaches teens photography and sound recording for exhibitions, radio production and collection building. Pilot projects are based in 3 communities in 3 counties of our service region: Schuylerville (Saratoga Co.), Lake George (Warren Co.), and Salem (Washington Co.), with partnerships with 6 organizations: Schuylerville Canal Visitors Center, Lake George Afterschool Program, Battenkill Conservancy-NY, and libraries in Schuylerville, Lake George, Salem. We have money from Parent & Child Library Services and NYSCA-Folk Arts.

Saturday, April 6 Camera & Tape Record Primer

10:15 am -12:30 pm Bancroft Library, Salem • 21 participants
2:30 - 4:30 pm Schuylerville Library • 16 participants

Thursday, April 11
7 pm

Backyards: Documenting Our Communities
with Todd DeGarmo & guest leader Bruce Hucko
CPL Folklife Center & Auditorium • 44 participants

April 11-17 Workshops (35 mm photography & professional tape recording):

Lake George School - Rondackers After School Group
Thursday, April 11, 2-5pm • 11 participants
Friday, April 12, 2-4 pm • 11 participants
Saturday, April 13, 1-4 pm • 13 participants

Schuylerville Free Library

Saturday, April 6, 2:30-4:30 pm • 13 participants
Monday, April 15, 9 am-noon • 10 participants
Monday, April 15, 1-4 pm • 10 participants
Wednesday, April 17, 9-noon • 10 participants

Salem's Bancroft Library

Saturday, April 6, 10:30 am-12:30 pm • 16 participants
Tuesday, April 16, 9 am -noon • 16 participants
Tuesday, April 16, 1-4 pm • 16 participants
Wednesday, April 17, 1:30-4:30 pm • 16 participants

We continue to collect fieldwork produced by 3 community teams on this ongoing project of photo documentation and audio recording of Salem, Lake George and Schuylerville. Thanks to the Parent Child Library Services for the \$21,330 grant to start this ongoing project. We were able to stretch grant dollars to purchase a portable editing lab, to produce CDs from raw field recordings, and exhibition prints from fieldwork photos.

Queensbury 3rd Grade Adirondack Day

The Folklife Center hosted storyteller/musician Chris Shaw (who grew up in, and has written music about Lake George) to perform for **168 students** during 6 sessions during this all-day annual event.

Summertime Blues 2002

Folklife Center events for this cooperative program for downtown Glens Falls:

a. *Live! At the Bandstand*

4-part concert series in City Park on Tuesdays in July 7 to 8:30 pm.

July 9	Celtic Crossing	216 audience
July 16	The Mammals	300 audience
July 23	John Kirk, Trish Miller & Quickstep	275 audience
July 30	Racquette River Rounders	224 audience

b. *American Patchwork*

4-part video series Thursdays in July.

July 11	The Land Where the Blues Began	22 audience
July 18	Jazz Parades: Feet Don't Fail Me Now	18 audience
July 25	Delta Blues Cajun Two-Step	13 audience
August 1	Devil Got My Woman	24 audience

c. *Listen to the Blues*

Audio listening post in Folklife Gallery changing all summer:

July 1-15:	Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, Early American Women Blues Singers.
July 16-31:	Skip James, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, Mississippi Fred McDowell.
August:	Howlin' Wolf, Lightin' Hopkins, John Lee Hooker, Son House, Mississippi John Hurt.

Revolutionary Lives: Celebrating the 225 Anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga Childrens Program

Folklife Center and Children's Department event on August 7 (10:30 am-1:30 pm) in City Park to celebrate the 225 anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga, featuring:

Anne Clothier • wool spinning and medicinal herbs
Anson Piper • calligraphy
Rick Salazar • Iroquois songs and stories
George Ward • Revolutionary ballads
Shari Yaddow • toys and games
Children's Department • quilting squares

counts: 115 (early) • 210 (middle)
• 236 (noonish when large groups had left)

Total estimated audience = 350

Crafts of the Rev War Community: an exhibition in our Folklife Gallery featuring the craft work of local reenactors, October - November.

Participants include:

Jim Casco (Vermont) musket repair
Anne Clothier (Saratoga Co) women's clothing & accessories
Mike Kowalski (Montgomery Co) black iron, hornwork
Anson Piper (Washington Co) calligraphy
Rick Salazar (Saratoga Co) Iroquois clothing & accessories
Eric Schnitzer (Saratoga Co) paintings of various uniforms
Paul Supley (Saratoga Co) hats, castings, leatherwork
Bill Valosin (Saratoga Co) tinwork

Other displays include books and other materials from the Holden Collection, brochures from various Rev War destinations, and our listening post for sampling 18th century music.

1776 Book Box available for classroom loan.

Reception during Crandall Fest November 2, with an audience of 1400.

Performance Series, in Folklife Center, featuring:

- **Feathers of Peace Legend**, retold by storytellers Jeannine Laverty and Joseph Bruchac, concerning the meeting of Burgoyne's Indians with the Quakers at Easton Meeting, October 29, 7-8:30 pm.

Audience = 65.

- **People of Colonial Albany**, introduced in a multimedia show by Stefan Bielinski of the NYS Museum, November 8, 7-8:30 pm.

Audience = 30

- **Ballads of the North Campaign** sung by folklorist/singer George Ward, November 15, 7-8:30 pm.

Audience = 26

Women of the Adirondacks: Woodcut Portraits by Cheryl Mirer

Exhibition in the Folklife Gallery

December 2, 2002 to January 31, 2003

First stop of a six library tour through July 2003. The artist is a recipient of the 2002 Warren County Individual Artist Grant, funded by the NYS Council on the Arts, and administered by LARAC.

Reception, Monday, December 2, 6-8 pm

with music by Peggy Lynn

catered by Susan Quillio

Est. Audience: 55

Exhibition Cubes

These portable display cases are used within the Folklife Gallery when needed. Most often they are used around the library for special displays, as with one for remembering the work of Vaughn Ward. They are especially useful for a rotating display of regional folk art and artists, as seen in the variety we presented in 2002:

Reference area (3 display cases):
ice fishing, Adirondack packbaskets (Jack Leadley); wooden mechanical toys (Chris Morley), fishing flies (Marc Francato); woolens (DePauls); Navajo marriage dolls

Children's Department (1 display case):
shovel maker (Gary Rathbone); chainsaw carved bear (Bob Sutliff); snowshoes (Ray Greene)

Downstairs/900s
toy barn (Sandy Lourie), balsam pillows by various artists; bird with snake carving (Bob Sutliff)

Book Boxes

To date, ten collections have been researched and developed by the Folklife Center in consultation with the Childrens Department. They are available for month-long classroom loan:

Chinese Cultures (new) - developed for the Taiwan exhibition of the World Awareness Children's Museum

Extraordinary Women (new) - developed for the 5th grade essay contest offered by the Adirondack branch of the American Association of University Women

- Navajo: Weaving, Stories & Lifeways
- Slavery & the Underground Railroad
- Foodways: A Multicultural Sampler
- India: People & Culture
- Dolls: Favorite Stories
- Japan: Our Asian Neighbor
- Migration & Immigration
- 1776: Life during the American Revolution

Presentations by archivist Albert Fowler:

- October: Introduction to Genealogy (with Katherine Chansky) presented during Archives Week at CPL with **17 participants**.

Presentations by folklorist Todd DeGarmo:

- May 21: *Folk Arts All Around Us*, illustrated talk, Greenfield Historical Society, **audience of 30**.
- August 6: *Indian Camps & Upstate Tourism*, illustrated talk, Lake George Association, (on his own time) as a Speakers in the Humanities series, a program of the NY Council for the Humanities, **audience of 14**.
- October 26: *Manuscripts in Public Libraries*, session of 3 speakers (representing NY, NJ, MA) at the fall meeting of the Northeast Archivists and Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives in Poughkeepsie, **audience of 40**.
- December 5: guest for 3 segments, *Eye on Lake George*, TV 8, Queensbury.

Additional Marketing

1. **Ethnographic Thesaurus**

Completed a questionnaire about our folklife collections to help guide the development of an ethnographic thesaurus, developed with an National Endowment for the Humanities grant to the American Folklore Society in collaboration with the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress and George Mason University.

2. **InternCenter/Liberal Arts Career NetWORK Group**

Updated our Folklife Center listing in a nationwide database of internship and summer job opportunities used by 24 selective liberal arts colleges and universities.

3. **NYSCA Individual Artist Grant**

Wrote letters of support to artists Shirley McFerson and Cherly Mirer for this LARAC administrated program.

4. **American Folklife Center**

We updated our listing in the publication, *A Teachers Guide to Folklife Resources for K-12 Classrooms*, also available online: www.loc.gov/folklife/teachers.htm.

We also sent a packet of our publications to be made available in the Folklife Reading Room, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

5. **Public Programs Newsletter of the American Folklore Society**

We submitted a report of our activities through March 2003.

Additional Professional Activities

Albert Fowler

founding member, Warren County History Roundtable

attendee, *Family History at the Speed of Light*,
2002 GenTech conference in Boston, January 24-26.

Todd DeGarmo

- board president, New York Folklore Society

At the annual meeting (October 20) of the New York Folklore Society, DeGarmo stepped down as the President of the Board, to become Past-President. For his 12 year commitment on the Board, with 6 years as President, Todd was presented a full set of the society's journal (50+ years) and an Iroquois fancy basket of black ash and sweetgrass. As his last act as President, he nominated George and Vaughn Ward for Honorary Vice-Presidentships for all they have done for folklife studies in New York State.

- member of the Advisory Committee, Capital District Library Council - Documentary Heritage Program.

- advisor to the Lake Champlain/Lake George Waterfront Revitalization and has also helped research subjects for interpretative signage in Hague and Lake George.

- January 25: attendee, *Oral History Workshop*, Vermont Folklife Center.

- April 5: attendee (own time), fundraiser for New York Folklore Society at Schenectady Museum.

- April 19: attendee, meeting of project directors for Parent Child Library Services grant recipients 2001-2002 at Ossining Public Library.
- April 25, May 16, June 6: trainee, *Genealogy on the Internet*, workshops sponsored by SALS.
- May 8-10: participant, *New York State Folk Arts Roundtable*, Rochester.
- May 17: library representative, *New Centuries Libraries*, a state-wide meeting of librarians, historians, archivists and other professionals, Albany.
- June 27: library representative (with Albert Fowler), Chapman Museum, invitation-only reception for its newly renovated archives and reading room.
- July 11: library representative, LARAC, City of Glens Falls and other non-profits meeting on new sound system for the bandstand in City Park.
- July 15: library representative, New York Council for the Humanities, new grant guidelines at Albany mtg.
- September 19: library representative, *Beyond Access to Opportunity*, day-long meeting presented by the NYS Council on the Arts at the Albany Public Library.
- October 16-20: attendee, American Folklore Society and New York Folklore Society's annual meetings, Rochester, NY.
- November 14: panel member (of 6), NYSCA Individual Artists Grants for Warren & Washington Counties, administered locally by LARAC, Glens Falls

Consultancies (DeGarmo's own time):

World Awareness Childrens Museum, consultant for long term planning with Heather Nielson, Leon Waller (Brooklyn Childrens Museum), Edward Ted Lind (Albany Institute), May 3.

Maine Arts Commission, panel member for Traditional Arts Apprenticeships, along with Keith Ludden (Maine), Winnie Lambrecht (RI), and Millie Rahn (MA), Augusta, Maine, May 22-23.

Skidmore College, visiting Lecturer for *American Studies 102* during the accelerated 5-week summer term 2002.

Adirondack Museum, member of the Advisory Committee to a new research, exhibition, and programming initiative, *Working on the Railroad*, to tell the story of the men and women who built and ran the train infrastructure of the Adirondacks. Other members including Varick Chittenden of TAUNY, Betsy Fowell of Adirondack Life, Martha Foley of North Country Public Radio, Amy Godine/independent scholar and author, July.

Geneva Historical Society, one of four tourism scholars (along with Peggy Shaffer, Cindy Aron, Carol Kammen) to help plan for Tourism in the Finger Lakes, a regional series of exhibitions in western New York, paid for by a National Endowment for the Humanities planning grant , Sept 28-29.