

From 1994 Crandall Public Library Annual Report

Center for Folklife, History and Cultural Programs

The Center for Folklife, History and Cultural Programs, a new department at the Library, 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 is included as part of the Library's mission as the Central Reference Library of the Southern Adirondack Library System.

Todd DeGarmo, Director of the Center, became full-time professional staff in 1994 to shape and form the Center. DeGarmo has worked for the Library since 1986, first as a consultant and later as staff folklorist. He is doctoral candidate in American Studies at George Washington University.

Grants

This past year, we received funding from several organizations:

1. National Endowment for the Arts-Folk and Traditional Arts Program for \$26,000
2. New York State Council on the Arts-Folk Arts Program for \$19,000
3. New York State Archives and Records Administration's Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund for \$40,355
4. New York State Documentary Heritage Program for \$10,698
5. New York Foundation on the Arts for \$1,500

DeGarmo also worked with the Director of the Library, Christine McDonald, to raise money to renovate space in the Library for the new Center. The funding includes:

6. Leo Cox Beach Philanthropic Foundation for \$30,000
7. LSCA Title II Construction Grant for \$26,311
8. NYS Building Grant for \$19,651

Center Renovation

At year's end, the plans for the Center are complete. Over \$125,000 has been raised in state, federal and private foundation funds. Architect plans call for staff work spaces, an exhibit area, centralized archival storage, and a secure reading room staffed by reference librarians and containing bibliographic finding aids.

Use of the Collection

Use of the Special Collections is as important as their preservation. In 1994 the Holden Room averaged 113 visitors per month, or 1352 for the year. The collections were also used for a variety of exhibitions, publications and other specialized projects, including Ken Burns' documentary, Baseball; Glens Falls Hometown USA 50th anniversary display, slide shows, and Post-Star supplement; Henry A. Ferguson's A Bridge at Glens Falls loaned to the Hudson Valley Museum in Yonkers for The River that Flow Both Ways: Hudson Stories; Charles Platt's painting loaned to the Chapman Museum for

Visionaries in Architecture; also Heritage Hall, Glens Falls Hospital, Glens Falls Community Theatre, Skidmore and ACC students.

Programs

1. Folklife Lecture Series

Vernacular Architecture Upstate, attended by 158 people on 3 Monday evenings in November, was the first of a new series of public lectures by scholars on research related to folklife studies.

2. Music and Storytelling Events

Climbing Mountains: Lore of the Adirondack Forty-Sixers November 17 event with the Library hosting 65 members, friends and aspiring "46ers" who shared stories of memorable moments climbing all 46 of the highest peaks in the Adirondacks.

3. Family Workshops

Growing Up in the North Country - over 423 participated in this year's workshop series, featuring 7 different programs in 3 series, traveling to 6 sites plus the library:

Sap's Running kicked off the year during 4 days of spring vacation at Crandall Public Library and 3 Washington County libraries, featuring Dousing with Cliff Walrath, Pack Baskets with Jack Leadley, Maple Syrup with Maple Hill Farms (280 participants).

Shelters, Shacks, Shanties showcased three types of vernacular architecture and their makers with site visits on Saturdays in October (70 participants).

Origami (Japanese paper folding) with Yuko Okada went on the road to 3 libraries in Washington County (73 participants).

Dance, Memory and Play - 54 students and 26 adults participated in this week-long (May 9-13) intergenerational collaboration between folklorist Todd DeGarmo and choreographer/modern dancer Mark DeGarmo.

Special Projects

Several topics of special interest have begun to be researched by DeGarmo and hired consultants. This research will be the basis of public programs over the next three years:

- Warren County Tourism
- Indian Camps and Upstate Tourism
- Saunas of Washington County
- African American Domestic Yards and Gardens
- Jewish Peoples in the Adirondacks