

UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

2020 UNYCAH Highlights

The **NEJCAH conference meeting** that was to be hosted by UNYCAH in Auburn, NY May 19-21, 2020 on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment giving the right to vote to women was postponed because of COVID-19 to 2021 and then again to May 10 – 12, 2022.

With the encouragement of UNYCAH members, work was started by the Harkness UMC in Adirondack District – of which Georgia Harkness was a member - to prepare the needed paperwork and documentation for designation of the church as a **United Methodist Church Historic Site**. This needs approval by Upper New York Conference before forwarding to national.

Adam Barnes' researched **database on pastor burials** of Upper New York and predecessor conferences was turned over to CAH. Karen Staulters volunteered to take over the updating of the database and to seek to make it accessible.

In the **UNY archives**, sorting and organizing the massive collection brought from the four former Conferences and records from closed churches, when gained (a continuing problem), has been challenging; however, our one day a week Archives Assistant has been able to process most records for recently closed churches only. The massive collection still needs to have other conference records reviewed and organized and a detailed index of our holdings created. Our Archives have been closed and volunteer work has been stopped due to the UNY Conference Center being closed to visitors and volunteers. It takes a lot of time to do the sorting and creating computer records, which is beyond what could be done by the staff available in 2020. It is hoped that we can get again an intern from Syracuse University.

CAH set deaccession and accession policy as well as procedures for the conference archives, with implementation to start once archives are open to volunteers and the public again.

The associated **Upper New York United Methodist Historical Society** did not hold its normal June & September in-person meetings because of COVID-19. However, it offered a public virtual meeting via ZOOM October 27 with an illustrated program on *A Century of Women's Suffrage (Still Seeking Equality)*, presented by Nancy Rutenber. The Society will present another ZOOM meeting in June 2021 on upstate Civil War chaplains. UNY-UMHS continues to communicate news and pictures, historical articles, and tips and policy through its quarterly e-newsletter and its public Facebook site:
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UNYUnitedMethodistHistoricalSociety/>).

Elected members of the UNY Commission on Archives and History for all or most of 2020:
Ken Jones (Chair), Nancy Rutenber (Secretary), Karen Staulters (VP), Loreen Jorgensen, Rev. Cathy Lee,
Rev. Betsy Mowry, Tom Place, Susan Slenker, Richard Ward;
joined October 2020: Rev. James Barnes, Rev. Nancy Hale