

### Grems Doolittle Library Timeline of Events-Since 1991

1991- Grems Doolittle Library officially opens its doors 10/12/1991

1992-Elsa Church hosts a Program "A Look at the New Grems Doolittle Library."

The Schenectady Foundation granted \$15,000.00 for the Library Building Fund

Trustco Bank donated two long library tables with 12 chairs

Elsie Maddaus becomes librarian/archivist

Gifts books catalogued

Formal dedication of the Grems Doolittle Library 9/12/1992- Mandy made another push for SCHS to be open on the weekends

1993-Large quantity ledgers transferred from the museum basement to library basement

New lockers for patrons to store items when using the library

Index of Ethnic Groups in Pamphlets Files compiled by Janet Pasquariello which will better assist researcher requests

Request for an electric typewriter but also donations of Yearbooks of the Holland Society of NY since 1930

\$20,000 gift from an anonymous donor set up an Edna Wilcox Pravada Memorial Fund for the purchase of library materials

1994-new computer installed in the Grems-Doolittle library to be used as a database, look ups for other libraries, word processing, accounting and typeset for publications such as the newsletter

Deed Archive Project- Request of Greta Reppen to Sally van Schaick to compose 2,500 abstracts of deeds-After 5 years it consisted of 1,200 abstracts on 280 typed pages. Through the efforts of Bill Milton and Bellone Associates, a scanner was found to load the existing abstracts onto a CD which could then be put into SCHS's new computer. After this, remaining abstracts could directly be entered into the computer.

Library Committee purchased two important pieces of equipment, a state of the art computer which allowed the ability to tie into the indexes of the Mohawk Valley and Southern Adirondack Library Associations and a microfilm and fiche reader/printer

Death of John Hancock, known as the "clerk of the works" as he planned the library's construction – a magnolia tree was planted in his honor

1995-Grems Doolittle Library presented the program "Farm Life in Schenectady County" as part of Archives Week

Nearly 100 new members joined the historical society because the library's construction

1996-Maddaus reached out to members asking if any were interested in tours of archival libraries

Library celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary

1997-Discovery of eight illustrious men of Schenectady placed on the east wall of the library -these included Joseph Christopher Yates, Leland Stanford, John Howard Payne, George William Featherstonehaugh, John Ellis, William Clyde Fitch, William Henry Seward, and Eliphalet Nott

Preparation of an Index to Ethnic Groups and index lists Genealogies by surname pivotal to researchers

Library welcomed donations of records of any Schenectady County families as well as surrounding counties

Elsie Maddaus offered Beginning Genealogy Workshop 7/8/1997-8/26/1997 which proved successful

Maddaus pushed for library exhibits

1998-the library began receiving more inquiries due to the Website

Historical display commemorating the 11<sup>th</sup> amendment, Alien and Sedition laws, yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia and Schenectady incorporated as a city in 1798

Installation of computer pushing the library towards the 21<sup>st</sup> century with the hope of providing a full list of all the individuals there is data on in the library which could spark greater interest to a now larger pool of potential researchers

Gift of \$6,000.00 by the William Gundry Broughton Charitable Private Foundation of Glenville for a new computer system to enlarge the library's capabilities and make local history and genealogy more accessible to the larger community

By November/December records of over 2,000 families online

1999- Elsie Maddaus retired, and Virginia LaGoy (Bolen) becomes the next librarian/archivist

2000-Saturday hours every Saturday of the month as opposed to just the second

Basement of the library needed reorganization, large bodies of items had no listing or arrangement-done by Elsie Maddaus and Chris Hunter

Shelves charted and mapped for easily retrieval

LaGoy (Bolen) asked to anyone to provide German translations, issues of NY Geological and Biographical Record, published family histories and microfilm reader and reader printer repair

2001-LaGoy asked anyone to provide printer in good working order, telephone books from the 1970s, pedigree chart, yearbooks and student photo albums from Schenectady County schools, volunteers

Bolen emphasized researching your own family as a way of drawing people to the library

Death of Ruth Ann Evans

2002-LaGoy requested Schenectady County school yearbooks and elementary school photo albums, telephone books from the 1970s as well as pencils, chair mats and book ends

Obituaries and marriage notices of 19<sup>th</sup> century Schenectady newspapers available on the library's website

2003-LaGoy and Frank Taormina "The Street Where You live"-tell how your street got its name

LaGoy sponsored "Research Your Own Family"

2004-Anonymous donor gave \$2,500.00 (to be matched by G.E) to enhance library technical support

2005-The American Antiquarian Society (AAS) in Worcester MA took SCHS of pre-1877 newspapers holdings to place them in climate controlled buildings-In turn SCHS received microfilm of the materials and any missing issues in the collection. This freed up space.

2006- Ann Ross Memorial Fund the library purchased two new desktop computers to replace the aging computers. In addition, it moved towards an automated catalog. A camera will be used for documenting events and places.

Grant awarded for the New York State Discretionary Grant program for \$2,410.00-to be used for a professional preservation survey of the entire library and archives and to make recommendations

Library volunteer Ann Hicks created an index to the 1930 Schenectady Gazette which included records of birth and deaths, accident reports, divorces, marriages and engagements

All SCHS Newsletters indexed in the Periodical Sources Index (PERSI)

Death of Elsa Church (write-up by Frank Taormina)- described as warm and friendly and was a close friend of Mandy Grems which might have contributed to Mandy's decision to make the donation for a new library. Obtained a degree in 1934 at Albany State Teachers College. Served as librarian at Scotia Public Library and then at SCHS.

2007-Katherine Chansky becomes the first full-time librarian of SCHS

2008-Restored 1860 New York State maps returned to the library through the efforts of SCHS Vice President Cal Welch. Total of four maps, the work done by the Green Dragon Bindery in Shrewsbury, MA  
Katherine Chansky holds a workshop on interviewing for oral history

Records of SCHS start becoming computerized through the Past Perfect software with the assistance of summer intern Mandi Beecroft along with the rehousing of fragile documents  
Death of former librarian Ginny Bolen-11/19/2008-volunteerism grew under her leadership  
2009-library documents collections rehousing and described after three years of hard work through the efforts of Ann Eignor and Mary Liebers. Fragile pamphlets, letters and programs were sorted, protected and described and organized to comprise over 30 boxes. Items were cataloged into Past Perfect.

Genealogy Day held

2010-donation of a digital scanner, gift of Peter Sisario of Scotia, NY

Donald A. Keefer Collection a significant genealogical reference material donated  
Poulin Scrapbook Collection made more accessible with a searchable table contents-the next steps include entry into Past Perfect as well as being catalogued

Library began 9/16 late night hours on Thursday nights until 8pm (lasted until 2014)

Donation of a Hewlett Packard Desktop Inkjet printer

2011-new online access to descriptions of Library Manuscript Collections

Book talks in the library, organized by Chansky

Melissa Tacke becomes the next librarian/archivist

2012-finding aids posted to the SCHS website

Grems Doolittle Library blog became very popular

Genealogy workshops in March and April titled Workshop: Introduction to Genealogy Resources in the Grems Doolittle Library

Creation of a Wish List for books, office supplies and other items through amazon.com

2013-very detailed library list of requested items provided which included books, pamphlets, local magazines and newsletters related to Schenectady County, maps, original documents, unpublished original research, telephone books and city directories

2014-Compressed storage for the archives installed by Legere Restorations (September)

Raise funds to purchase a new digital microfilm reader/scanner, it would make reading microfilm much easier

Need for telephone books 1969-1974 and local ones before 1960

Number of finding aids made available online in a pdf form, also indexes to microfilm collections and research guides for many topics

2015-Michael Maloney becomes the librarian/archivist

2016-the rehousing and cataloguing of SCHS's map collection completed by Ann Eignor

Grems Doolittle celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a lecture by Frank Taormina