



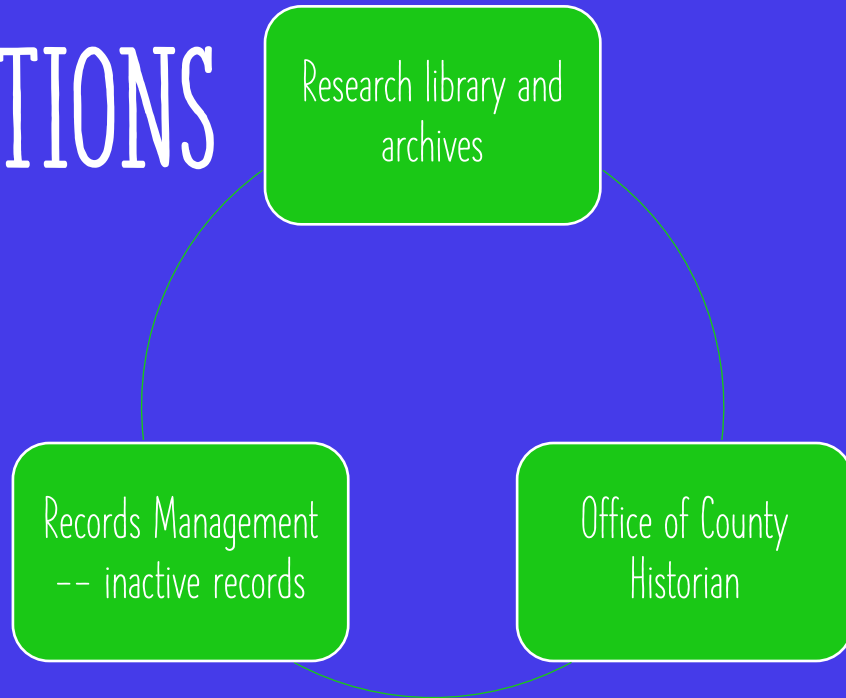
Montgomery County
Dept. of History & Archives

2025 Annual Report

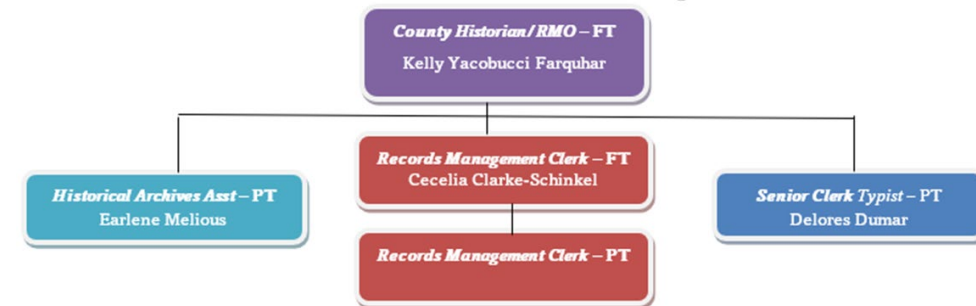
The Montgomery County Department of History & Archives, since its establishment in 1934, has been a Mecca for genealogical researchers across the nation. The valuable resources and outstanding staff have made this research library renowned to those in search of family history.

While genealogy has helped attract visitors, the department is also very dedicated to preserving Montgomery County's local history, a history that has developed over the past 2 ½+ centuries. Teaching the public on events that impacted the county's culture, society, industry, transportation, education, etc. and recognizing their place in the national arena has been a long-standing mission of the department.

FUNCTIONS



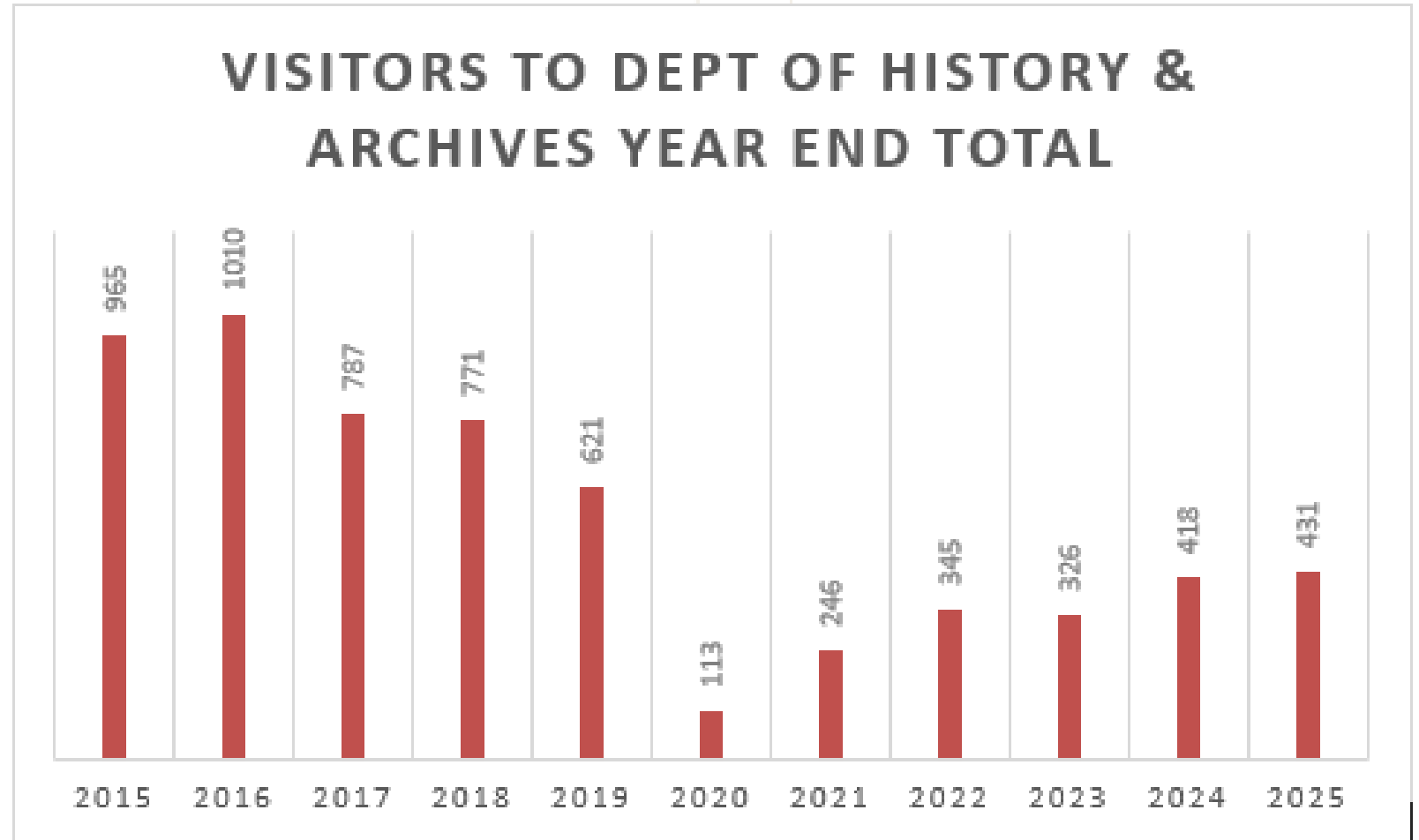
2025 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART – Department Staff



RESEARCH LIBRARY & ARCHIVES - 2025

- In-person patrons from **29** states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Washington, D.C., Wisconsin

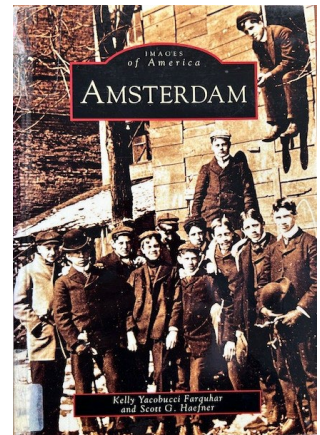
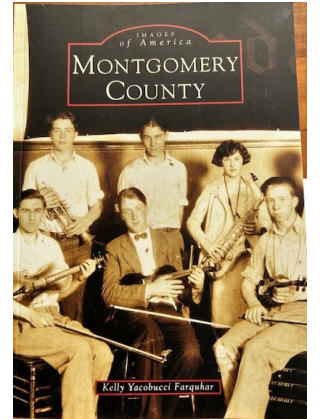
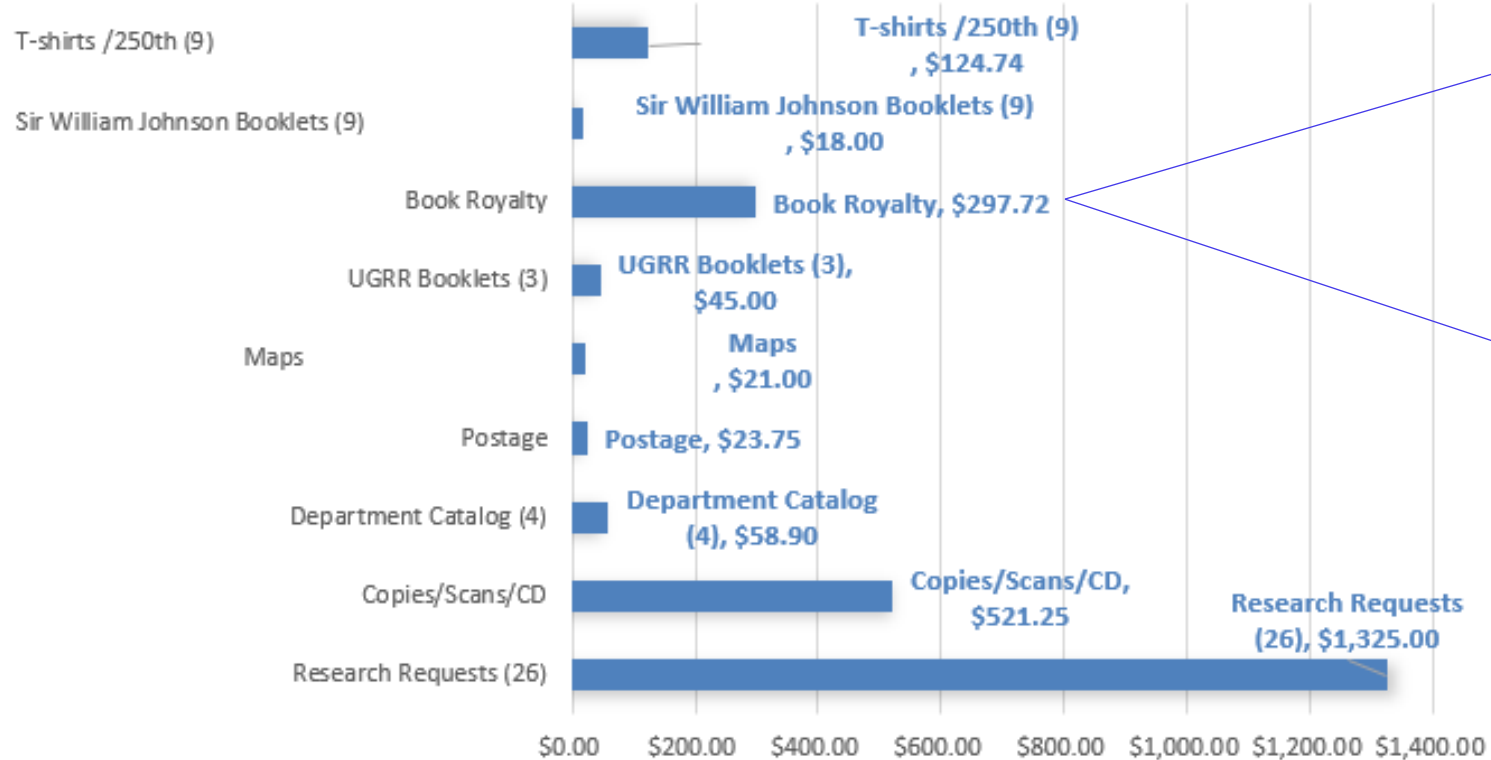
- Over **3,000** requests by phone/email (requests for information from the public, other county departments, various agencies [Chamber of Commerce, NYS Court System Historical Society, NYS Archives, etc.], title searchers, surveyors, local codes officers, & social media)



REVENUES FOR 2025

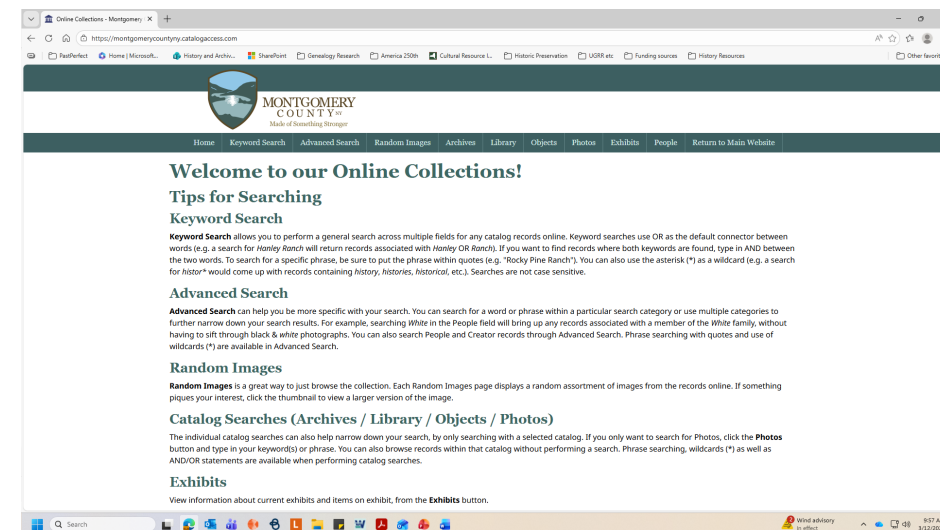


DEPT OF HISTORY & ARCHIVES REVENUE BREAKDOWN FOR 2025



RESEARCH LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

- Accessions for the department: 26 items given by donors from across the nation - 7 (library) & 19 (archives)
- Implemented *PastPerfect* Web Edition Museum software for management of both library and archival collections - over 28,000 items listed, consolidating search access from multiple various formats (both paper & electronic) to one system
- Volunteers relabeling & repairing books in library - 52.5 hours
- Moved assessment roll books (pre-1910) from Old Courthouse (2nd floor) to Records Center
- Removed 18th & 19th century Court of Common Pleas & miscellaneous records from filing cabinets 2nd floor of Old Courthouse to archival collection in Records Center
- Reorganized rooms on the 2nd floor housing assessment roll books, bound & boxed newspapers, and maps



COUNTY HISTORIAN – DUTIES/FUNCTIONS

Research and writing on aspects of Montgomery County's history

Interpreting Montgomery County history through public presentations and outreach:

- *Montgomery County Now* podcast with Sheriff Jeff Smith discussing recap of last year's historical topics 1st (& only) female sheriff in Montgomery County, Underground Railroad (UGRR) & National Park Service's *Network to Freedom*, Rev War 250th commission, Erie Canal 200th, Old Courthouse and upcoming events
- Hosted Amsterdam Chapter D.A.R. for genealogy program and using resources at Montgomery County Dept. of History & Archives
- UGRR presentations (2) - Norway Historical Society (Herkimer County) & Van Alstyne Homestead's *Juneteenth* program
- "An Evening of History & Hauntings" presentation on learning to research homes/buildings with paranormal activity and investigations of the Old Courthouse & Annex Building, featuring Brian J. Cano of *Paranormal Caught on Camera*

Historic preservation

- worked with historical preservation architect on specs for Mohawk Valley Revitalization grant for Old Courthouse façade improvement
- letter of support for Town of Palatine's grant to American Battlefield Protection Program focusing on Battlefields of Stone Arabia & Klock's Field

Heritage Tourism



COUNTY HISTORIAN - HERITAGE TOURISM

- Assisted with editing historical information on updated Montgomery County Tourism website <https://www.VisitMontgomeryCountyNY.com>
- Provided historical information / timelines for 5 Montgomery County villages for Montgomery County Tourism kiosks
- With Tourism & ABC Marketing, interviewed on camera at Schoharie Crossing SHS re. Montgomery County's Erie Canal history
- Participated in New York State Tourism Industry Association America 250th virtual Summit for County Historians and TPAs
- Attended SUNY/Erie Canal Bicentennial Forum: Navigating the Canalway Trail in Utica
- Rode from Fort Plain Lock 13 to Canajoharie on *Seneca Chief* replica of original boat that made its way from Buffalo to New York City on Erie Canal celebrating 200th anniversary of canal
- Chair of Montgomery County Rev War 250th Commission, established by County Legislature Res #144 of 2023
 - Magnets -- Liberty Pole historical marker (1000) & 250th logo (500) for giveaways
 - Purchased 20 retractable banners (designed by ABC Marketing) for local historic sites to display during America250 commemoration through 2033
 - Liberty Pole raising reenactment event held at St. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine with colonial reenactors, vendors, food, and "Valley Forge" series exhibit by renowned artist Mark Maritato

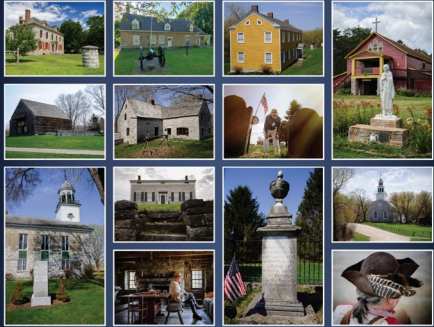
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NY
★ CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM

HERITAGE TOURISM

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S AMERICA 250

LIBERTY POLE REENACTMENT - ST. KATERI TEKAKWITHA SHRINE

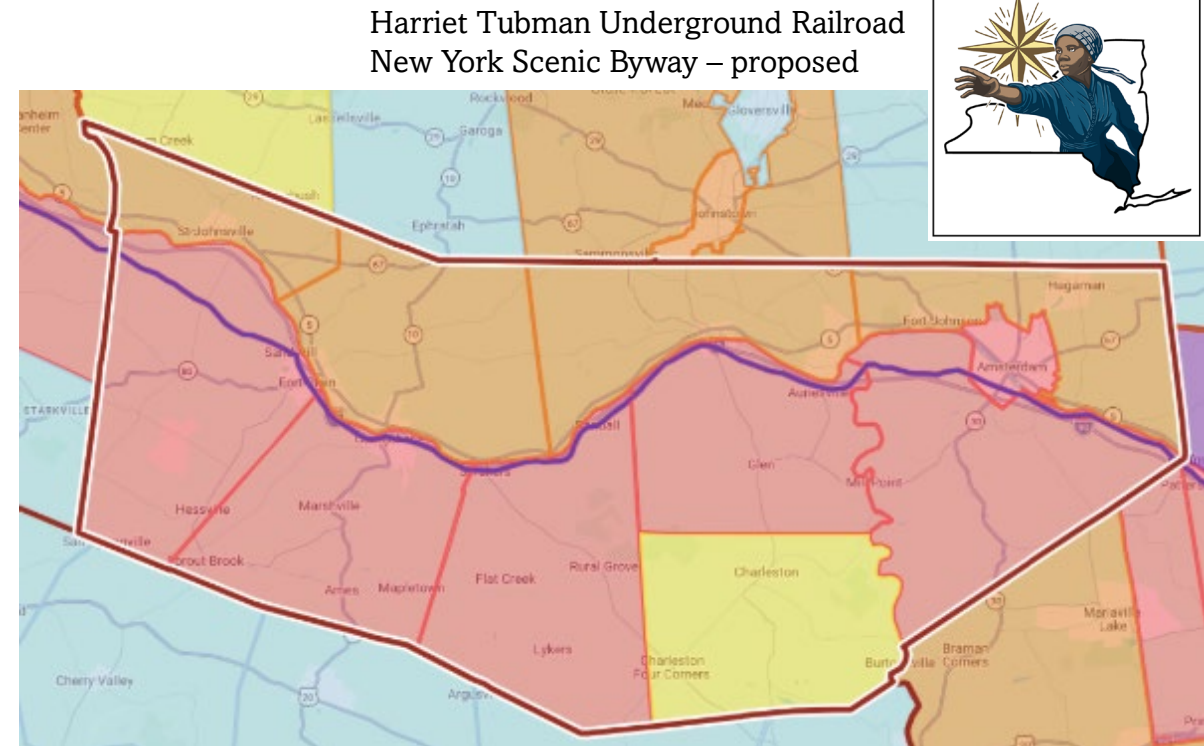
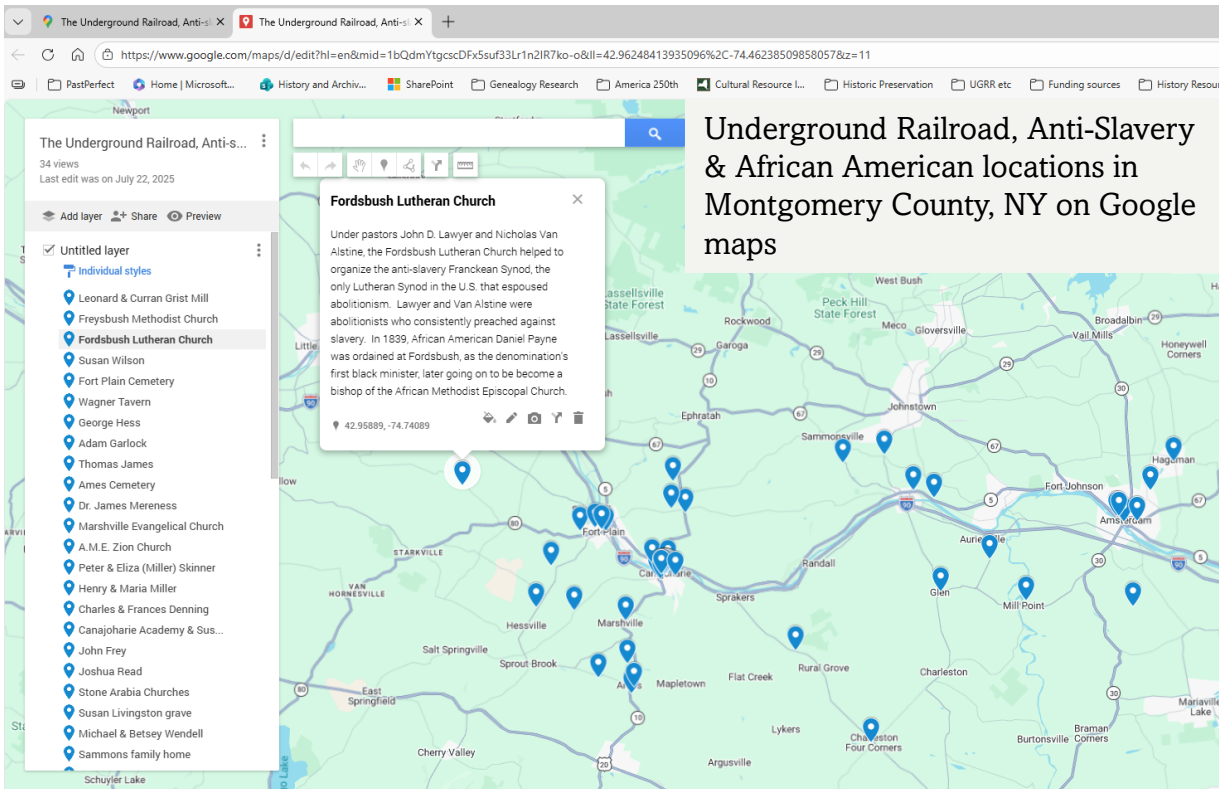
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NY
★ CELEBRATING 250 YEARS OF FREEDOM



Over 125 attendees

HERITAGE TOURISM -- UNDERGROUND RAILROAD (UGRR)

- Developed Google map for Montgomery County's UGRR, Abolitionism & African American story
- As member of Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State (URCNYS), outreach to City of Amsterdam, Montgomery County, and Towns of Minden, Canajoharie, Glen, Root, and Florida, and Villages of Fort Plain, Canajoharie, and Fultonville to advocate for their respective boards/councils to pass a resolution in support of the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway



HERITAGE TOURISM -- HISTORICAL MARKERS

Coordinated with County Dept. of Public Works Sign Shop for repainting/resetting of historical markers as identified by public

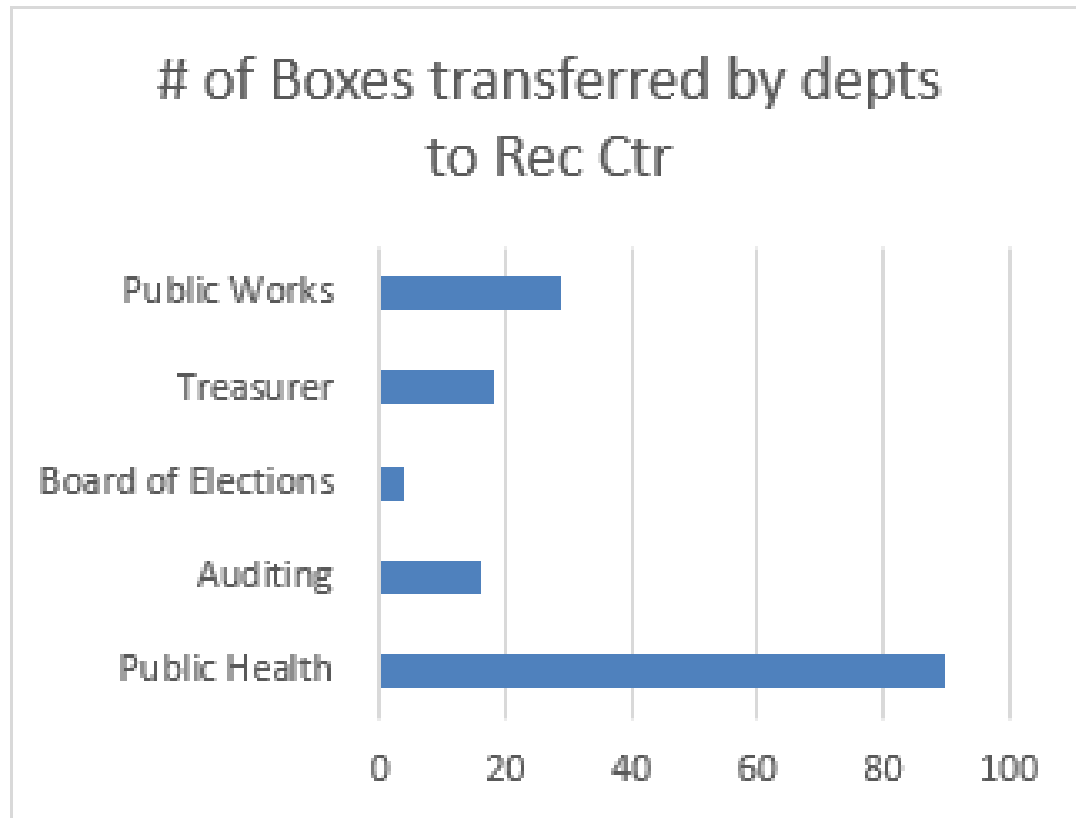
- **Daniel Claus** – Rt. 5, Amsterdam
- **Fort Klock** – Rt. 5, St. Johnsville
- **Nellis Tavern** – Rt. 5, St. Johnsville
- **Diefendorf Hall** -- Main St., Fort Plain
- **Clinton Liberal Institute** -- at bottom on school hill, Fort Plain
- **Fort Failing** – Old Fort Plain Rd., Canajoharie
- **Marker with windmill** – off Thruway, Amsterdam
- **Currytown Reformed Church** – Rt. 162, Root
- **Manny's Corners Cemetery** – Rt. 67, Amsterdam
- **Wagner home** – Rt. 5, Palatine Bridge
- **Cromwell Home** – Dillenbeck Rd., Town of Glen



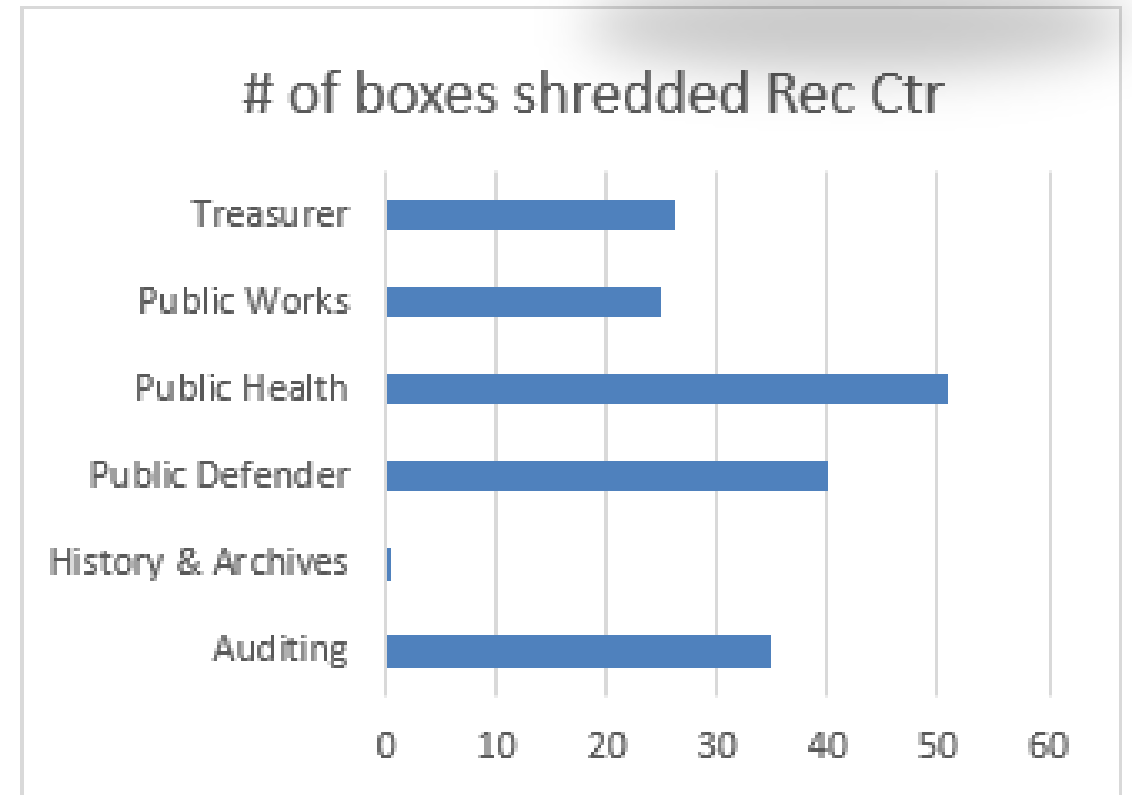
RECORDS MANAGEMENT



Transfers to Records Center: 194 c.f.



Inactive records shredded Rec Ctr: 177 c.f.

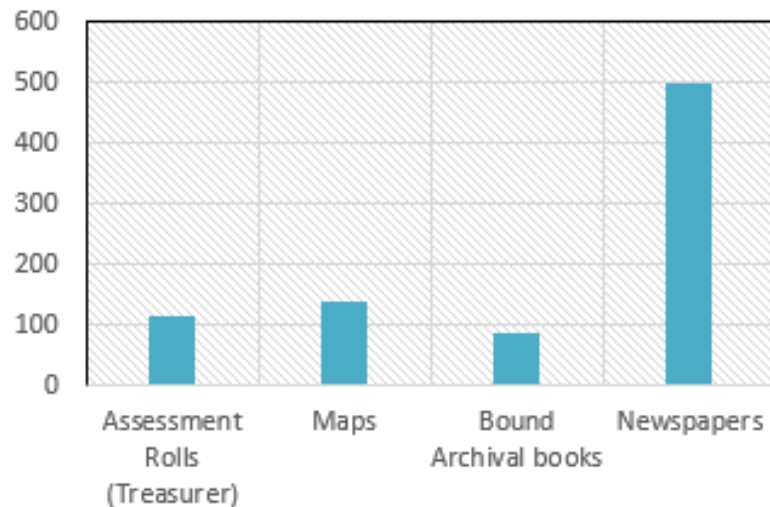


RECORDS STORED

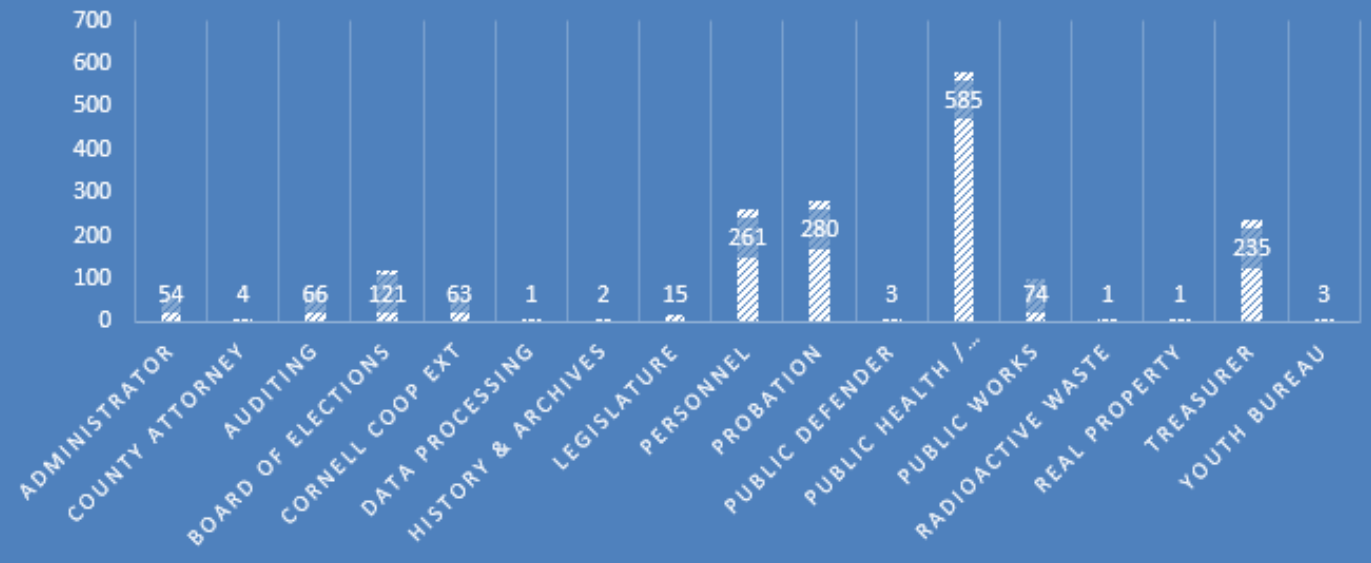
Total volume currently being stored within the Records Center & Old Courthouse = **3,748 cubic feet**

- **2,909** – 1769 (inactive) + **1140** (historical / archival) – Records Center
- **839** – 115 (inactive) + 724 (historical / archival) – Old Courthouse

Volume of records stored at Old Courthouse



INACTIVE RECORDS -- # OF BOXES STORED AT REC CTR BY DEPT



THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT!

Despite the visitation numbers being considerably lower during and since the height of the pandemic, people have continued to show interest in our genealogical and local history collection. We look forward in 2026 to commemorating the 250th anniversary of our nation, celebrating the 190 years of our Old Courthouse, and having more of an online presence to reach those potential visitors who will be able to access our collection even if they are not able to visit in person.

The Dept. of History & Archives staff wish to thank the County Executive, the County Legislature, colleagues, patrons, and donors for their continued support of this department, its collection and the Records Management Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Yacobucci Farquhar

Montgomery County Historian/RMO