

ACCOMPLISHMENTS *and* FINAL REPORT



IN LINE WITH UNION'S COMMITMENT TO STUDENT ENGAGEMENT, THE CLIR PROJECT PROVIDED UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS TO LEARN ABOUT ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH METHODS VIA HANDS-ON EXPERIENCES.

Archives Student Assistants

■ **Emily Pastore '16** joined the CLIR project in September 2014. Her experience affirmed her passion for uncovering archival collections. She will be pursuing a master's degree in library and information science, with a focus in archives, at Simmons in Boston beginning the fall of 2016.

■ **Arthur Shutzberg '17** joined the CLIR project in January 2015. Though he had little experience in the field, working with the Apperson papers ignited a spark of archival interest. During his time with the project Shutzberg led his fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, in the creation of an exhibit for the 2015 ReUnion Weekend, utilizing historical photographs from Schaffer Library's Special Collections and Archives Department. As a radio host on WRUC, he regularly incorporated one of the project's themes, outdoor recreation leading to environmental activism, into the sports radio program.

Summer Research Fellows

■ **Brittany Kenny '16** and **Ben Mountain '17** joined the CLIR project in 2015 as part of Union's Summer Research Fellowship Program. These dedicated scholars each brought their own personal strengths to the project: Kenny's passion for legal history and Mountain's attention to prevailing historic attitudes. Using their keen understanding of research methods, they compiled high-level research from primary sources in the project's archival collections for the scholarly website.

Project Staff

- **Abigail Simkovic**, project archivist/project manager
- **Annette LeClair & India Spartz** (Schaffer Library), co-principal investigators
- Under the direction of **Frances Maloy**, college librarian, the Schaffer Library staff provided strong interdepartmental support with web design, scanner training and digitization, professional development, ArchivesSpace development, cataloging, hardware, contributing integrated work areas, purchasing supplies, and providing exhibit support. Particular assistance has been given by **Gail Golderman**, digital scholarship and services librarian; **John Myers**, catalog and metadata librarian; **Jennifer Goodwin**, front-end web developer; **Rebecca Fried**, metadata and digital services specialist; and **Frank Rapant**, photographer and reproduction specialist.

Image Credits

Front: *Woman reviews the USGS topographical maps used in the creation of the 12-foot-tall relief map of the Adirondack State Park in the Adirondack Room of Paul Schaefer's home, now the Kelly Adirondack Center at Union College, c. 1950. From the Paul Schaefer Collection.*

Flap: *An unidentified man filming in the Adirondacks, likely shot during the filming of either Of Rivers and Men or The Adirondack: the Land Nobody Knows, c. 1970. From the Paul Schaefer Collection.*

Interior/top: *Unidentified children and adults on a makeshift dock in the Narrows of Lake George with John Apperson's boat "Chilhowie" on the far-right, 1917. From the John S. Apperson, Jr. Papers.*

Interior/bottom: *Scenic view of Lake George, NY, taken from a mountain top near John Apperson's camp, c. 1920. From the John S. Apperson, Jr. Papers.*

CONTACT

arl@union.edu
kellycenter@union.edu

VISIT

clir-adk.union.edu
www.union.edu/adirondacks

GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM *and the* AMERICAN WILDERNESS:

Pioneers in the 20th Century
Adirondack Park Conservation Movement



CLIR HIDDEN COLLECTIONS CATALOGING AT UNION COLLEGE





GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM AND THE AMERICAN WILDERNESS: PIONEERS IN THE 20TH CENTURY ADIRONDACK PARK CONSERVATION MOVEMENT



CLIR Hidden Collections

Since 2008, with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) has invested in innovative and efficient approaches to describing rare collections through their highly competitive program, Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives: Building a New Research Environment. On average, CLIR funds 15 proposals per grant cycle from applications across the U.S. and Canada.

CLIR at Union College

The John S. Apperson, Jr. Papers (1878-1963) and the Paul Schaefer Collection (1908-1996) total 210 cubic feet of archival material. They are comprised of the personal papers of Apperson and Schaefer, mentor and protégé Adirondack grassroots environmental activists, and include a century of correspondence, litigation, publications, audio recordings, maps, and photographs. The grant was awarded in 2013, and the grant period ran from July 2014 to May 2016. Union College was honored to receive funding as a first-time applicant, which is a rare occurrence. For the duration of the grant, project space was generously provided by the Technical Services Department and Special Collections and Archives Department of Schaffer Library and the Kelly Adirondack Center.

Significance of the Collections

■ The collections of this project comprise the personal papers of two leaders of the preservationist movement, citizen activists whose influence shaped the first century of the Adirondack State Park (1899-1996).

■ The Adirondack Park is the epicenter for the studies of: the history of park and wilderness preservation, environmental history, the history of grassroots environmental politics, wilderness philosophy, wilderness public policy, and the future of landscape conservation.

■ New York State wilderness legislation is the first of its kind in the U.S., predating all federal forest preserves, the National Park Service, National Forest Service, and the Federal Wilderness Act (by 70 years).

■ The Adirondack Park is an inhabited forest consisting of a patchwork of private (3.4 million-acres) and public (2.6 million-acres) lands. This public/private design has become the model for future wilderness conservation.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS *and* CAMPUS IMPACT: A SNAPSHOT

The accomplishments and campus impact of the CLIR Hidden Collections grant exceeded expectations. A representative sample of the project's achievements appears below.

■ 210 cubic feet of archival material was processed to archival best practices and rehoused in acid-free archival enclosures.

■ All material has been cataloged using ArchivesSpace, an industry leading and innovative archival management system. This project provided the opportunity for the Schaffer Library to implement this software, which paves the way for Union to electronically manage its cultural collections in the 21st century.

■ A scholarly website (<http://www.clir-adk.union.edu>) has been created which includes:

- Digital exhibits, historical, and biographical information showcasing the Paul Schaefer Collection and John S. Apperson, Jr. Papers
- Encoded Archival Description (EAD) finding aids for both collections
- A digital catalog with 525 scanned photographs and manuscripts

Each scanned item is described with robust metadata in order to ensure scholarly discoverability. The digital metadata schema devised by the project meets current standards for digital library portals with an eye toward increasing global access in the future.

■ The entire collection of digitized material was uploaded to the Digital Public Library of America and New York Heritage's Digital Collections.

■ The collections and their digitized material are connected to New York's K-12 students via a new partnership with New York Heritage.

■ The website, digitized material, and processed papers contribute to the visibility and promotion of the Kelly Adirondack Center.

■ Over 25 training or procedural manuals documenting archival processes were created for Schaffer Library.

■ Information of national significance was discovered about personalities in the papers such as Jean Robert Foster, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt, and Howard Zahniser.

■ An exhibit showcasing the collections was installed in the Lally Reading Room of Schaffer Library in early May. To support and enjoy this exhibit:

- A large-scale photograph by famed Adirondack photographer Nathan Farb was installed.
- The reception for the Steinmetz Symposium was held in the exhibit space on May 6, 2016.
- In collaboration with the Kelly Adirondack Center, an exhibit launch and reception was held on May 12, 2016 as the capstone of Union's Adirondack Week.

■ A new course utilizing the collections, "The Adirondacks and American Environmental History," was developed by **Professor Andrew Morris** of the History Department and held during the spring 2016 term.

■ Career enhancement opportunities for five graduate assistant archives processors were created for **Jennifer Moore, Suzanne Catharine, David Doughan, Kimberly Kunker, and Abigail Simkovic.**

■ The CLIR grant staff developed three conference presentations and workshops and successfully represented the College at several national conferences and events.

