

## Collections' Significance

- The Adirondack Park is the epicenter for the study of the history of US environmentalism, grassroots political movements and wilderness conservation.
- New York State's "Forever Wild" legislation is the first of its kind in the nation to predate the National Park Service, National Forest Service and the US Wilderness Act by 70 years.
- The Adirondack Park is an inhabited forest containing a patchwork of 3.4 million private and 2.6 million public acres of land that serves as a model for wilderness conservation today.
- The CLIR grant provides funding to process and make accessible the archives and personal papers of John S. Apperson (1878-1963) and Paul Schaefer (1908-1997), two prominent citizen conservationists dedicated to preserving the Adirondack Park.
- Apperson and Schaefer, mentor and protégé, changed the course of environmental history and helped create a new American identity around 20th century conservationism and public policy. The papers provide unique opportunities to learn about their work with prominent citizens and politicians of the time: Robert Marshall, Gifford Pinchot, Howard Zahniser and the Roosevelt family.

## Campus Impacts

- Under the direction of College Librarian, Frances Maloy, the Schaffer Library provides support in keeping with the College's cost share obligations. This includes providing website design, digital services, reference assistance, laptop computers, archival supplies, ArchivesSpace software and exhibit planning.
- In April 2015, the CLIR staff hosted a successful on-site visit by a CLIR agency representative to the Union campus and KAC.
- The CLIR project staff has represented Union at several national conferences and events.
- The project is utilizing the College's new ISILON high-capacity server to store digital files.
- New partnerships have been developed between the Schaffer Library, New York Heritage and the Digital Public Library of America to feature the archival collections on the World Wide Web.
- The Schaffer Library's implementation of the ArchivesSpace software provides an opportunity for Union to electronically manage its cultural collections in the 21st century.

*Pamphlet provided by the CLIR: Hidden Collections Project staff, Union College, 2015.*

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Related Resources:

Project LibGuide

<http://libguides.union.edu/clirgrant>

Project Twitter

<http://twitter.com/CLIRwild>

Project Tumblr

<http://clirwild.tumblr.com>

Project Hashtag

#CLIRwild

Project Blog

<http://goo.gl/aIPncF>



## CLIR Hidden Collections Cataloging at Union College:

### Progress Report August 2015

**Grass Roots Activism and the American Wilderness: Pioneers in the Twentieth Century Adirondack Park Conservation Movement**



*John S. Apperson, Jr. and Dr. Irving Langmuir prepare to embark on a winter Adirondack mountain summit, c. 1912. Digital surrogate of a glass plate negative, John S. Apperson, Jr., papers.*



## What is a CLIR Hidden Collections grant?

Since 2008, with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Council on Library and Information Resources has invested in innovative and efficient approaches to describing rare collections through Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives:

Building a New Research Environment. A highly competitive program, CLIR funds an average of 15 proposals per grant cycle from applications across the US and Canada.



**Left:** John S. Apperson, Jr., 1902. *Digital surrogate, cropped, from the John S. Apperson, Jr., papers.* **Right:** Paul Schaefer, 1958. *Digital surrogate, cropped, from the Paul Schaefer Collection.*

## CLIR at Union College

**Project Title:** Grass Roots Activism and the American

Wilderness: Pioneers in the Twentieth Century Adirondack Park Conservation Movement.

- Grant awarded in 2013. Note: Union College is honored to have been awarded funding as a first-time applicant, a rare occurrence.
- Grant period July 2014-April 2016.

### Project Scope:

- The John S. Apperson, Jr., papers (1878-1963) and the Paul Schaefer Collection (1908-1997).
- Total size of the collections: 210 cubic feet of archival materials.
- Description: Personal papers of Apperson and Schaefer, Adirondack grassroots environmental activists, mentor and protégé, comprising a century of correspondence, litigation, publications, audio recordings and photographs.

### Project Staff:

- Abigail Simkovic, Project Archivist
- Annette LeClaire & India Spartz (Schaffer Library), Co-PIs

## Progress to Date

- John S. Apperson papers processed, accompanying finding aid and detailed research guide completed and ready for researchers.
- 219 archival items digitized and described with 26 unique metadata fields.
- 19 training manuals documenting new archival processes completed.
- Course development underway using Apperson and Schaefer collections, 2015-2016.
- New discoveries about personalities featured in the papers such as Jean Robert Foster and the Roosevelt's to name a few.
- Outreach: Abigail Simkovic, Project Archivist selected to present "Digitization to Data: Turning Challenges to Opportunities Digitizing at a Small Institution" at Society of American Archivists Annual Meeting, August 2015, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Social media: Established a LibGuide, CLIR project blog, Twitter, Tumblr and Hashtag.
- Digital scholarship:
  - Planned launch of the CLIR grant website in fall 2015.
  - Sponsorship of two Union College Summer Research Fellows to create and publish 12 digital exhibits that will be featured on the project website.
  - Summer Research Fellows will publicly present their research findings in fall 2015.
- Celebrations:
  - Planning is underway for spring 2016 exhibit opening and reception at Schaffer Library to recognize achievements and commemorate the project.



*"Riprapping Party," c. 1910. Digital surrogate from the John S. Apperson, Jr., papers.*

## Student Engagement

*In keeping with Union's commitment to student engagement, the CLIR grant project is providing unique opportunities for students to learn about archives and research methods through hands-on experiences:*

- **Emily Pastore**, '16, has worked on the CLIR project since September 2014. The experience affirms her passion for uncovering hidden collections as she hopes to pursue graduate studies in Special Collections and Archives.
- **Arthur Shutzberg**, '17, was hired because of his interest in archives. Though he had little experience in the field, working with the Apperson papers ignited a spark in him--as a radio host on WRUC, he often discussed the relationship between outdoor recreation and environmental activism. Arthur also inspired his fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi to create an exhibit for ReUnion weekend 2015 by using historical photographs from the Schaffer Library's Special Collections & Archives department.
- **Brittany Kenny**, '16, and **Ben Mountain**, '17, are serving as part of Union's Summer Research Fellowship program. As dedicated scholars, each brings their own personal strengths to the project: Brittany's passion for legal history and Ben's attention to historic prevailing attitudes. Using their keen understanding of research methods, they are using the Apperson papers to publish scholarly essays for the CLIR project website. Along with honing their research and writing skills, Brittany and Ben are also selecting digital images that were generated by the project to illustrate their essays.

## Vanguard of Archival Practice

- Through ArchivesSpace, the project staff is expeditiously creating comprehensive finding aids and research guides for both the Apperson and Schaefer collections.
- 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 innovative digitization workflow and procedures will be a topic of discussion at the 2015 annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists.
- As part of the grant proposal, the project is creating innovative methods of widely sharing archives by creating K-12 learning tools for the Department of Education's Open Educational Resources database.
- The project's avant-garde student engagement component underscores Union's commitment to robust undergraduate research-centered programs and serves as a model for others to follow.