

Ellen R. Farney

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EXPERIENCE

Constable Hall, Constableville N.Y. — Intern

June 2015- August 2016

Over the span of two summers I worked as the intern at this beautiful historic estate. I learned what goes into running a historic estate museum, and had the chance to put some of these valuable skills into practice. These skills included: grant writing, estate upkeep, research, artifact care and preservation, accessioning, and organizing. During my second summer there I was given the opportunity to create my own exhibit; I designed and managed a season long, rotating display of Victorian era gowns in the estate's collection. I completed one research article per summer, both of which were published in the Lewis County Historical Society Journal. I did these things alongside giving tours of the hall and property and aiding the director in any duties she required of me. I also created a social media presence for the estate. This experience was the central factor in my choice to enter into the study of history at SUNY Potsdam.

SUNY Potsdam History Association — President

2019-2020.

I was elected president of the SUNY Potsdam History Association at the end of the spring semester of 2019. I took office at the start of the fall semester in 2019 and will remain there until I graduate in May of 2020. In this role I oversee the executive board, hold weekly meetings, plan events and more. Through this opportunity I have developed better organization, time management, teamwork, problem solving, and public speaking skills. The CO-VID19 pandemic caused me to have to revise how I normally run History Association, but my e-board and I were able to come up with a new system which included solutions for our weekly meetings and upcoming events such as elections and Senior Seminar Night.

Employment Experience Regarding Customer Service

— 2013-2018.

Throughout high school and college I worked in a number of entry level customer service positions that provided me with numerous skills such as, customer relations, time management, problem solving, etc. I worked for the Lowville Town Hall Theater, Kinney Drugs, and David's Bridal in addition to two waitressing jobs.

SKILLS

Leadership

Communication

Writing

Media Management

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish (reading and writing).

AWARDS, TITLES, & CERTIFICATIONS

OWLS Award- Lowville Academy: Outward Willingness to Lead and Serve annual award: 2013.

Four Year Athletic Award-Lowville Academy: 2015.
Four Year Ensemble and Marching Band Award-Lowville Academy: 2015.

C.A.R. (Children of the American Revolution) Fort Schuyler Society Member: 2013-2020.

C.A.R. Fort Schuyler Society First Vice President: 2015-2016.

C.A.R. New York State Chairman for Public Relations: 2014.

C.A.R. NYS Chairman for Kids Helping Kids: 2015.

D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) General William Floyd Society:

2015-cont.

DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) certified: 2016

VIRTUS certified: 2017

President of SUNY Potsdam History Association:

2019-cont.

EDUCATION

State University of New York at Potsdam, Potsdam N.Y. — *Bachelor of Arts*

Graduate as of May 2020

Major in History and minor in Africana Studies.

PROJECTS

“The Last Time Lewis County Voted Democrat” — *Article, 2015*

This is the first article I wrote while working as an intern at Constable Hall. While cleaning out a dresser with the director, Charlotte Beagle, we found part of a newspaper with information about local and state elections from the 1830s. Charlotte suggested that I write about it, as it was an interesting find. It was published in that year’s edition of the Lewis County Historical Society’s Journal.

“The Gowns of Constable Hall” — *Article, 2016.*

I found about a dozen Victorian era dresses in storage on the estate and asked the director if I could create an exhibit to display them and she agreed. I created a display of three gowns and every two weeks I would rotate the gowns being shown so that more could be exhibited throughout the season. I did research on the gowns and on women’s style of dress for that period and wrote my second article on this topic. This article was also published in the Lewis County Historical Society’s Journal.

“Native Reactions to Increasing European Presence in the Inland Niger River Basin: a Comparison of Dr. Edward Wilmot Blyden and Reverend Samuel Ajayi Crowther” — *Article, 2018.*

This is the first research project I completed for an African history class. This article looks at the documented reactions of Blyden and Crowther, two relatively westernized African intellectuals, regarding the increasing presence of Europeans in West Africa, specifically the area around the Niger River Basin. I argued that, based on their writings, Dr. Blyden identified more with the inland natives of West Africa. Writing this was a critical learning experience for me, and if I were to go back and edit it there are many things I would change.

“The Inherent Need for Birth Control in Early Nineteenth Century America: as Represented in Letters Written by Mothers to the Federal Children’s Bureau Between 1915 and 1932” — Article, 2018.

This is an article I wrote for a United States History Course that focused on the 1920s and 1930s. A book by Molly Ladd-Taylor, *Raising a Baby the Government Way, Mothers’ Letters to the Children’s Bureau, 1915-1932*, was recommended to me by my professor. I was fascinated by the letters it contained and the struggles that so many women in the United States faced during pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood. Using primarily Ladd-Taylor’s book and census along with a few secondary sources, I created an argument for the importance of birth control being available to mothers in all parts of the United States.

“Leopold Sedar Senghor and Negritude” — Article, 2018.

In this article I focused on Leopold Sedar Senghor, the first president of Senegal, and his concept of Negritude. I argued that influence of the French policy of assimilation in West Africa and Senghor’s belief in the depth of African personality were the key factors in his development of the concept of Negritude. Due to further research in the area of African nationalism, I would change and /or add to various parts of this article including the argument. However, this article shows my growth as a student of both history and Africana Studies, as well as my growth as a writer.

North Country Transcription — Independent Study, 2019.

I had the opportunity to be a part of this project which included two History Department faculty members and a few other history students. A community member and former professor provided a box of letters that had belonged to her great-great-grandmother. The letters were the courtship letters between herself and the man she would go on to be married to for over seventy years. Each of us were assigned a certain number of letters to transcribe and then we came together to discuss our findings. We used the information in the letters to draw conclusions about social norms in the North Country during the 1870s. We presented the findings at the 2019 Research and Learning Fair at SUNY Potsdam.

Green Revolution or Green Delusion: Has an innate feeling of racial superiority caused some to see non-existent agricultural problems in Africa? — Research Project, 2019.

This is a research project I did for an African environmental history course. I looked at the concept of the “Green Revolution” in Africa and what different voices were saying about the needs of African agriculture. Specifically, I wanted to know what Africans were saying compared to what western companies were pushing. The final product of this project was a research poster.

European Missionary Influence on African Nationalism: A Case Study of Edward W. Blyden — *Research Project, Senior Thesis 2020.*

This research project explores the influence of the activities of European missionaries, specifically missionary education, on the development of an early form of African nationalism through a case study of Edward Wilmot Blyden. Blyden was a West African intellectual during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries who influenced later nationalists, such as Leopold Sedar Senghor and his Negritude movement beginning in the 1930s. Drawing on Blyden's biography, relevant historiographical material, and, most importantly, Blyden's own written works and transcripts of his numerous speeches, I came to understand how interactions with missionaries throughout his life shaped Blyden's intellectual perspective. His views would lead him to encourage other Africans, in his native Liberia and throughout the continent, to adopt racial and national pride into their lives. I created a research poster for SUNY Potsdam's Research and Learning Fair, which was presented virtually due to COVID-19. This is also the topic that I wrote my senior thesis on.