Cemetary Tours! (Daily Eagle 10/8/2014)

Tour some of the Town of Sweden's historic cemeteries.

This coming weekend the Town of Sweden will hold a bicentennial event, tours of cemeteries in the town. Many of these cemeteries are the resting place of a number of college staff. Beach Ridge & Lakeview Cemetery on Route 19 just south of Brockport holds the graves of a number of significant figures from the college's history, for example Ernest Hartwell, William Lennon and Charles McLean.

Charles McLean's grave has an interesting story: during his time as principal at Brockport he helped found a fraternity, Gamma Sigma, in the 1870s. This fraternity flourished here and spread to other schools. Even after the chapter here closed in the 1930s it continued on in many locations, and well into the 1960s members of the fraternity would gather once a year at McLean's gravesite to pay their respects to their founder.
Golden Bears? (Daily Eagle 1/8/2015)

Some sports news...

Here's one of those little archival questions that can be very challenging to research, namely, have our sports teams always been the "Golden Eagles"?

The answer is no, they haven't. There was no team name as such in the pre-WWII, Normal School era. The closest thing would have been that for many years the basketball team was nicknamed the "Nihisermen" after the coach, Ed Nihiser, who was here in the 1920s and '30s.

But recently the archivist ran across the answer to the question in an old Stylus. See the attached article.
Historic windows being restored! Daily Eagle 1/15/2015)

The historic stained glass windows of the old Normal are being restored.

Thanks to a generous (and anonymous) donor the eight stained glass windows in the library are being restored by Valerie O'Hara of Pike Stained Glass. These windows are rare survivors of a much earlier era in our history, the "Normal" era. Established as a private academy in 1835, we became a state Normal school in 1867. Normal schools were a form of teacher training school, one that granted a license to teach in the state schools, but not a bachelor’s degree. The school operated as it had out of a building complex that sat approximately where Hartwell Hall is today.

From about 1910 to 1930 various graduating classes and other student groups donated stained glass windows to the school. There ended up being sixteen such windows, prominently displayed along the main corridor of the building. In the late 1930s the old building was torn down and replaced by what we now call Hartwell Hall. The story is a little unclear, but eight of the windows at least were boxed up and stored in the basement of Hartwell.

They were discovered there in the early 1970s and placed in the library at the urging of history professor Wayne Dedman.

According to Valerie O'Hara the windows are in generally good condition, but like anything time takes its toll, and she is cleaning them, repairing cracks and so forth and has taken some sections back to her shop for releading.

An interesting discovery is the answer to the question, why were the windows installed in reverse orientation so they can't be read properly? On removal from their frames it turned out that the other side of the windows is a colored, but opaque whitish looking glass. Valerie O'Hara said it is an uncommon but not too unknown design choice. The windows were meant to be installed with the "whitish" sides on the inside, and the light of day coming through would bring out the color present in them.

Mary Jo Orzech, library director, has taken the initiative and electricians are working on new lighting for the windows so that we may, if we desire, replace them in proper orientation and view them as they were meant to be seen 100 years ago.
In the early 1960s, pop folk music was quite a presence on the music scene. Groups like the Kingston Trio, the New Christy Minstrels, the Journeymen and others enjoyed great commercial success. There was even a TV show hosted by Jack Linkletter called "Hootenanny," the popular expression for a folk music jam session.

This music was popular at Brockport, as at many college campuses. There were several hootenanny nights held, and shown here are two unidentified students in a tryout for one such event in 1963. A group of students living off campus in the Donaher House formed a folk music group, led by Mike Cavalcanti '64 (see attached Stylus article). One wonders if Brockport is not long overdue for another hootenanny night!
Storm Hits Hootenanny Circuit

There is a local group that is literally taking the "Hootenanny Circuit" by storm. The Donaher Trio, as they call themselves, is composed of three students from Brockport State Teachers' College, two who reside in Rochester, (when school is not in session) and one is from Buffalo.

Joe Gleichauf who is a Junior and Mike Cavalcanti, a Senior, are the Rochester participants and the founders of the organization. They were living at the "Donaher House", an off campus house for students, when they decided to experiment with Joe's guitar and Mike's borrowed bass. Tony Mazzucchi joined the group when they decided his voice was exactly what they needed and thus evolved the Donaher Trio.

Since that fateful night, one year ago, the boys have skyrocketed to fame in the local folk music circle. A clue to their success is an excellent repertoire and an inborn showmanship. They spice their collection with smart dialogues and catchy verses to standard folk ballads. They also put their own modern touch to these songs with great versatility.

The group has played several times in the Rochester area. They are perhaps best remembered for their concert at Greece Olympia High School where they played for a standing-room-only audience and took no less than 5 encores. They also played for the WBWF Hootenanny at Highland Park Bowl for a crowd of over 10,000.

Currently, the Donaher Trio is making a tour of high schools in and around the Rochester-Buffalo area. They perform for assembly programs and take part in hootenannies sponsored by various civic organizations.
See rare film footage of Brockport in the 1930s!

Many years ago two cans of 8mm home movie film were donated to the Rose Archives. The film was shot over a period of years in the 1930s by Emmett Costich, during much of which time he was a student in the "Training School" as it was known then, later the campus school.

There is about 45 minutes of this unique film footage, the earliest of the college known to exist, and it has been digitized. This past fall intern Ian Hauck ’15 spent many hours studying the film, researching and identifying people and locations, adding captions and so forth. Ian will be presenting this material at Scholars Day this spring, but you can have a little preview now, thanks to Dave Tyler and his capable staff, who have posted a 3 minute clip of the film on the college Youtube channel.

(Update: the full project is on the Digital Commons: https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archival_videos/1/)
Smoking on campus (Daily Eagle 2/24/2015)

A brief history.

This post was prompted by running across a photo of the chess club in the 1950s. The archivist has been sharing unlabeled photos from that era with Jeanette Banker D'Agostino, Campus School and Education emeriti, and this photo was one of them. Jeanette has an amazing memory and identified the three faculty standing, and one student as well. You can see the photo in the archives blog, linked here.

The curious thing that struck the archivist was the two large ashtrays on stands. No room on campus today has such ashtrays of course, but once they were as common as pencils or desk lamps. Certainly a case of change for the better!

It would be an interesting student research project to trace the history of smoking on campus. In a 1930s student handbook for example there is a mention of a "smoking room," implying that smoking elsewhere was not allowed. After WWII it seems like smoking was allowed almost everywhere, and now today it is not.

http://brockportarchives.blogspot.com/2015/02/chess-club-1950s.html

Research into some of our 19th-century students.

Shane Swann '15 has been doing a 3-credit internship in the archives this spring, and his first project, recently completed, was to sort, conserve and scan a unique set of photographs, carte de visites of students at Brockport Normal. He then researched the story of each student using the online files of the Brockport Republic and sources held in the archives.

Several of the students studied had quite interesting careers, including Charlotte Allen 1898, who had a successful career as an "elocutionist." This meant giving one-person performances in which she would recite poems, popular sections of plays, etc. We are not sure why she was wearing the Little Bo Peep costume in her photo, however!

Attached is a .pdf of the PowerPoint Shane put together on these students. It is currently running on the TV outside the Rose Archives on the ground floor of the library.

(Note: the powerpoint is in projects, filecity2...
The college yearbooks are now all online. The first yearbook was a one time effort in 1899. Then there was no yearbook again until the new Stylus made its June issue a commencement issue in 1914. At first there were no class photos, but as time went on group photos, and then individual photos were added. This form of yearbook continued through 1928 when some far reaching decisions were made.

The Stylus, which had been a quarterly magazine in format, became the weekly newspaper it still is today. At the same time a new yearbook was launched, the Saga. The Saga ran, with a few breaks, from 1929-1996. Since 1996 no yearbook has been done. There were various factors that led to the demise of the yearbook, especially a strong feeling that there just wasn’t enough interest any longer to justify the work and expense.

Certainly from a historical and archival point of view it was disappointing to see the yearbook end. It is so often a staple tool in researching the history of the school. But like printed catalogs and staff directories, it ceased to be done, posing challenges for archivists today and in the future. But for now there are many years of it to enjoy and use for alumni, emeriti, and the archivist too!
The Old Neighborhood (Daily Eagle 4/2/2015)

Kenyon Street 50 years ago.

Many do not realize it, but up into the 1960s there was a neighborhood along Kenyon Street and a set of streets west of it that no longer exist. In the 1930s when Ernest Hartwell was principal and the school was lobbying for funding for a badly needed new building, he argued that the school should acquire land west of Kenyon, beyond existing neighborhoods, where it would have open space for future expansion. His farsighted suggestion was not accepted however, and instead today's

Hartwell Hall was built, replacing the old Normal School building.

After WWII there was of course a huge expansion of higher education, especially in the later 1950s and early 1960s. The school needed desperately to expand. In the end many homes were acquired along Kenyon and adjacent streets. Some were demolished, and some were moved out to Holley Street.

The early 1960s photo here is taken from just south of the intersection of Adams and Kenyon on Allen Street, looking north towards the railroad tracks. The house across the street on the corner to the left is where Cooper Hall is today. The Newman Oratory had not quite yet been built on the corner opposite, on the right. This image is part of a set of materials that an intern, Shane Swann '15, is going through and creating a finding aid for.
Some of the "backstory" behind the building currently under renovation.

Lathrop Hall, which today is being extensively rebuilt and upgraded to house Nursing and Public Safety, has a long history of use. The building was part of the early expansion of the college after WWII, being built on formerly residential property in 1951.

The original purpose of the building was to serve as the student union, and it did so for a number of years until Seymour was built in the late 1960s. After that it housed Public Safety and other offices.

The building was named after Henry Lathrop, who was head of Mathematics here from 1913-1935. In addition to this role, he was active as an advisor on a number of student groups, for example the Stylus and the popular "Color Day" festivals of the time. He was also a charter member of the Brockport Kiwanis Club.

In the folder on Lathrop in the archives there is an article he wrote for the Stylus in October of 1929 about his summer work as a "Chautauqua Superintendent with the Redpath Circuit of New York and New England."
We have many buildings on campus today, a couple of which were quite recently built, the SERC and the Liberal Arts Building. For a very long time however, from the start of the school in 1835 till after WWII, the college was essentially a one building school. The original building was badly damaged by fire in the 1850s (supposedly the fire was accidently started by students cooking taffy in their room!) That structure was rebuilt, and then wings added on in 1867 and again in 1900. The complex was still here in the 1930s, but much of it was in poor condition, in part because for years poor funding had precluded the routine maintenance necessary for any building.

Ernest Hartwell came here as principal, as the president of a Normal school was called, in 1936. He worked hard, and successfully, to first stave off the threat of closing the school, and then to secure funding for an entirely new building complex, today’s Hartwell Hall. An important supporter of his campaign was Gifford Morgan, who was on the board of the school, and a member of a prominent local family with many political connections. His family home, The Morgan Manning House on Main Street, is today a house museum and the seat of the Western Monroe Historical Society. Shown here is Gifford Morgan laying the 1938 cornerstone for the new building.
In the college archives we have a slim volume entitled "Ready To Roll: An intrepid teacher's journey in education." The book was published in 1982 and is an edited memoir of the life of Lena Agnes Boyle 1917, who in latter life became known as Lea Cowles Masters. The book is drawn from a set of tapes Masters recorded, at the suggestion of some Brockport emeriti she had come into contact with in her retirement in Arizona, such as Wayne Dedman. Ron Watts prepared the edited transcript version of her tapes, with Peg Hare Browne, Bruce Leslie, Ken O'Brian and others playing a part as well.

While her teaching career after Brockport started conventionally enough, as a grade school teacher in Port Jervis NY, by the 1930s she had acquired a bachelors and masters degrees in addition to her Normal school teaching license, and became active in New Deal efforts to expand nursery and preschool education in places as far flung as the Virgin Islands and Alabama. After WWII she established the preschool for the children of staff of the newly formed United Nations. Recently the archives was contacted by a staff person at the UN school, inquiring about Lea Masters, and that query prompted the scanning of her book and placement of it in our Digital Commons where you can read it now. It is a fascinating depiction of the life of a decidedly adventurous educator in those transitional years of the mid twentieth century.

You can read her story by following the link to our Digital Commons, thanks to the digitizing efforts of Kim Myers and her staff.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/43/
Marie Weldon was a local girl who not only attended Brockport Normal, our predecessor, but also attended elementary, junior, and senior high, all in the "Training School" department of the old Normal school! ("Training School" was the earlier name for the "Campus School," a school within the school which village children could attend. It wasn't until about 1930 that the Brockport school district built a separate high school, today's middle school building.)

Marie was known for her writing, often publishing poems in the Stylus and the local village newspaper, the Brockport Republic. Sometime in 1915 she wrote the words to our Alma Mater, to the tune of Getteschalk's "Last Hope," and the words first appeared in the June 1915 Stylus. Later it became traditional to have the words and music with a photograph of the school printed in the yearbook issue of the Stylus, and then in the Saga yearbook when that started in 1929.

After Brockport Marie Weldon obtained a teaching job in Hudson NY where she taught for a number of years, and then retired to Rochester NY.
A favorite freshman orientation activity of yesteryear; could it make a come back?

For many years a certain activity was a staple of the freshman experience at Brockport. That activity was the hazing of the freshman class by the sophmores. The freshmen wore "beanies" to identify themselves, there were various rituals, kangeroo courts and so forth. It may seem surprising today, but it was a popular experience at the time, as an icebreaker, a way to get to know the campus and the college community. Just recently, when reading through the responses of the Class of 1965 to a survey about their experience at Brockport fifty years ago, several members of the class recalled the fun they had during freshman hazing!
Prof. Lennon's house for sale (Daily Eagle 8/26/2015)

A home with a connection to a prominent professor of the Normal school era is for sale.

Some of you may have noticed that the old Victorian house at 113 Adams St., on the corner across from Cooper, is for sale. This house was the home for many years of a prominent Normal school faculty member, William Lennon, after whom Lennon Hall is named.

Born in Albany County in 1838, Lennon attended Genesee College at Lima. He taught in several high schools and academies, and then came to Brockport as a science professor in 1869. He was particularly interested in meteorology, and for many years maintained a weather station at the school which reported data to the national weather service. In January 1904 for example in an article in the Brockport Republic about an extreme cold weather spell it was noted that "The government self-registering thermometer in care of Prof. Lennon showed 14 degrees below zero Monday night."

He was a founder of the state Science Teachers Association, and a member of the American Academy of Sciences.

In a tribute to him given at the 1907 commencement, Will Wilcox '82 paid tribute to Prof. Lennon, "...whose manly, upright influence had done more toward the molding and uplift of student life, and the preparation for life's problems, than the knowledge of how to demonstrate the most difficult geometrical figures."

For a number of years he was an active part of alumni reunions, including those of the "Brockporters Association" who met regularly in NY city.

He retired in 1911, being the longest serving faculty member at that time, and died in 1913. The village newspaper shared a number of comments by colleagues and former students, who in part noted that: "Professor Lennon was a man of rugged intellect and strong convictions firmly held. But these were reached deliberately after careful thought. He hated hypocrisy and shams and was keen to detect them. Yet his nature was kindly and generous as many will gladly testify... For many years he was the stay and devoted support of the student's prayer meeting, a spiritual power in the school."

As Professor Lennon's support of alumni activities suggests, he was interested in the history and traditions of the school. In 1907 he wrote a little booklet on the school's history which is available via the link in this article.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/38/
The 1955 National Champion soccer team.

In the 1950s and '60s, Brockport State Teachers College, our predecessor, fielded an impressive soccer team under coach Huntley Parker. In 1955, the team were national champions, even beating the Army team at West Point!

Some of the players are coming back for a 60th reunion this month, on September 26. The "Golden Eagles" link below is to an excellent paper Daniel Cody '07 wrote on the team for a class with Bruce Leslie, and the other link is to the set of articles written on the team during the 1955 season in the Stylus.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/19/
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/44/
In the fall of 1940 several African American students came to Brockport as part of a New Deal era program to encourage higher education opportunities among minorities. One of the group was C. Bruce Lee, from Buffalo NY.

Many years later Mr. Lee saw an article in the Kaleidoscope about Fannie Barrier Williams, our school's first African American graduate (1870.) Mr. Lee had actually met her, and her sister Ella, when he was here in 1940. He wrote the archivist about that experience, and his time here in general. He subsequently came back for a visit, and an oral history interview was done.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student/2/
Ghosts of Hartwell Hall (Daily Eagle 10/26/2015)

Something for the month of Halloween...

In 1993 senior Jennifer Valaitis did an outstanding job of interviewing staff in Hartwell Hall and their experiences with that building’s resident ghosts. This was part of an independent study with the archivist and Virginia Weiss (English.) Her paper is online and makes a good read for Halloween!

In case anyone wonders after reading her paper, there was a drowning death in the school, although not in the pool that used to be in Hartwell, it was earlier, in a cistern in back of the old Normal school. A principal of the school did die in the building in the pre Civil War era. Stories of ghosts in Hartwell predate Jennifer's paper, going back at least to the 1960s. Whether these ghosts, and others, frequent Hartwell Hall is something that the college takes no official position on :-)

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/1/
Our new president has been working hard to engage with the campus on the issues facing us today. This isn't the first time the school has weathered financial and other challenges, however. In the difficult years of the 1930s the school was threatened with closure, and the campus and area communities rallied together to support the school. They were successful of course, in part due to the help of students like these pictured here, from an October 1, 1936 Democrat & Chronicle news article. The caption, which styled the students as the "New Idea Diggers," read as follows:

"How can we better our school? Is a question constantly before these Brockport Normal School students, members of a new Student Council named to seek out ideas for the betterment of the school. Back row, Stowell Sandmeyer, Robert Tuttle, Max Metcalf; center, Albert Natale, Chrystal Kelley, Lois Carlin, Beulah Grover; front, Betty Wilkie, Naomi Nelson, Jane Hammon. T
Mary Mortimer of Mortimer Hall (Daily Eagle 11/23/2015)

A remarkable pioneer in higher education for women.

Mortimer Hall is named after Mary Mortimer, who had a fascinating career in higher education for women in the 19th century. From Waterloo NY, her parents died of malaria when she was 12. Described by a friend as having a "...wonderful depth of heart and mind..." she wanted to go on beyond the local one room school, but her older brother, who controlled the inheritance from their parents, refused to allow it. So she worked as a servant, and studied on her own.

When she turned 21 she received her share of the inheritance, and used the money to attend a newly opened seminary for "young ladies" in Geneva. Here she found a mentor and friend in Clarissa Thurston, who in later years was head of Elmira Female Seminary. Thurston helped Mortimer both academically, and spiritually, encouraging her in an ongoing crisis of faith she had experienced.

After she finished her studies, Mortimer taught there for two years, then in 1841 her friend Thurston told her about a newly reorganized school starting in Brockport, the Brockport Collegiate Institute, our predecessor. Mary Mortimer came here to teach and be head of the women's department.

It was an exciting and transitional time in higher education. Little "academies" and "seminaries" were springing up across the country, to offer a level of higher education beyond that of the common public schools, and this educational opportunity was open to both men and women, and at least at times, to minorities as well, in a way not the case at the few colleges then in existence.

She left Brockport in 1844 because of health issues, and after her recovery taught at LeRoy Female Seminary (which later became Ingham University for women, one of the first degree granting institutions for women in the country.) Later she came into contact with Catherine Beecher of the famous Beecher clan. Beecher was a leading advocate of education for women, and Mary Mortimer assisted her in the establishment of the Milwaukee Female Seminary, and then headed the school for some years.
Christmas came early today for the archives. Chrys Matterson of Adirondack NY had contacted us about a school related piece of jewelry she had, asking if we would like it for our collections. After seeing the image she sent, and discussing it with her, we said we would be happy to include it in our holdings. It is an heirloom piece, from her gr-grandmother.

The item is a small pendant about an inch long. The one side, shown here, gives the name of the student, Franc(es) Aylesworth 1872, who was from Norwich NY, and her teacher, Fidelia Alling (Merritt,) who was the instrumental music teacher here from 1867-1892. One the other side is the inscription "Ps 87.7," presumably a reference to Psalm 87 verse 7, "Singers and dancers alike say, 'All my springs are in you.'"

It is a lovely donation that raises intriguing questions. For example, it is known the school gave out print diplomas then, we have some in the archives, but this is the first example of a jewelry item relating to graduation we have seen. An early form of class ring? A special gift from the teacher?

We do know, from the NY Historic Newspapers site, that Miss Aylesworth played "Gallop de Concert" at the 1872 graduation exercises, and that she later married and lived back in her hometown of Norwich.
With a new president and her inauguration coming in the spring, the archivist has been going through the records of the presidents of the college. It seems appropriate to share some of the stories of these earlier leaders of the school.

Here are two who saw the college through some very challenging and interesting times. Ernest Hartwell, left, was the last principal of the old Normal school, and the first president of the Teachers College, a transformation of the school he was instrumental in achieving. It was under his leadership too that the old Normal school building complex, a romantic, but badly deteriorated stone structure was replaced with the building we call Hartwell Hall today. He also successfully staved off the threat of closure of the school, something we can all be grateful for! He served here from 1936-1944.

Donald Tower, right, was president of the college from 1944-1964. When he came here the school was a small institution with perhaps 300 students and 25 faculty, all in the one building. The post WWII years of course radically transformed Brockport, like all higher education then. Tower was a founding member of the SUNY system in 1948, oversaw the expansion of the campus by a number of buildings, and saw the enrollment grow from a few hundred to a few thousand students and a corresponding growth in staffing levels.

The photo is undated, but probably from the mid-1950s. The two men are standing outside Lathrop, which at that time was the student union, one of the many new buildings constructed in Tower’s time.
Camp Totem for sale! (Daily Eagle 1/8/2016)

The camp the college once owned is up for sale...

For some years in the 1950s and early 1960s the college owned Camp Totem, a log cabin camp on the West Branch of the Oswagatchie River near Harrisville NY, in the North Country east of Watertown. This camp served to train PE students in camp counseling, a major program at the time. College students served as counselors, and children from Brockport and the area would be the campers. It was used for many other activities as well.

As programs changed emphasis a new, much closer opportunity arose just a few miles west in Fancher. The college bought an old farm there and built a lodge, swimming pool etc. That property was sold in the 1980s, and is Hickory Ridge Golf & RV Park today.

The archives has been posting on Facebook, in the "Remembering Brockport" group, and recently posted about Totem. Marty Roger’s daughter, Debby Emerson, an area librarian, commented on how she recalled spending summers at Totem, and shared that the property is for sale. If the college, or any staff, are looking for an opportunity in the North Country, here it is :-) The link takes you to the listing for the property, and has some nice images, and videos of the camp's frontage on the river.

https://www.loopnet.com/Listing/19278596/12925-Bryant-Bridge-Road-Diana-NY/
Something old for a new year...

Attached is a scan of the oldest surviving local record of our school. It is the cover and the first couple of pages of the minutes of our school's first organizing board. (Note: this notebook is in RG1/st.) As most have heard, a regional Baptist group initiated an "academy" in Brockport in 1835. Back then the public schools only went through 6th grade, there were no middle or high schools, and very few actual colleges. The academy movement was a transitional form that tried to fill that gap.

Unfortunately there was a severe economic crisis in 1835, and while land was donated by Hiel Brockway, and a building erected (pictured here), the school never really got started, as recent research by Political Science emeritus Bill Andrews has revealed.

A few years later, in 1841, a group of local citizens banded together and, pledging their money and support, established the Brockport Collegiate Institute. That initiative launched a school that continued as an academy into the 1860s, then became a state Normal school, then a teachers college in the 1940s, and in the 1960s the comprehensive school we know today.

We can all be grateful to those citizens of Brockport of so many years ago for establishing this school!
This spring a student is revisiting the stories of ghosts on campus.

Contessa Blosenhauer (cblos1@u.brockport.edu,) a student here, is doing an independent study this spring, in which she is revisiting and researching the stories of ghosts on campus. Her work builds on that of Jennifer Valaitis ’93, who interviewed people who worked in Hartwell Hall and who shared their stories of encounters with ghosts in that building.

It is an interesting project, exploring the history of the college (one of the ghosts is said to be that of Julius Bates, first head of the school, who died in his apartment in the building in 1845,) and the broader context of the paranormal, the rich connections in this region with Spiritualism and so forth.

If you have had experiences with ghosts on campus, if you have knowledge of the history of such stories and other relevant information, please contact Contessa, she would love to hear from you!
Have you ever noticed those concrete panels outside Cooper's New York Room, the bas relief silhouettes? There were placed there in 1966, when Cooper was a new building, designed to house the Campus School.

The artist was Dorothy Riester, a fascinating woman who lived a full and long life creating art. Duncan Chase, from our Art Department, is the one who told the archivist who had created those panels. He knew because on a visit to Stone Hill Quarry Art Park, the art park Dorothy Riester and her husband created near Cazenovia, he saw models of the panels and asked her about them. (Duncan said she was in her 90s at the time, and still welding sculptures!)

A photo of the one panel shown here appears in her memoir, "The Art of Life: Dorothy Riester, A Memoir." (Local History NB237 .R54 K46) What treasures we have on our campus!

https://sqhap.org/
"Burlingame House" (Daily Eagle 3/7/2016)

Some of the story behind the residence of the president.

Recently, an announcement in these pages for an event at the president's house referred to it as the "Burlingame House." This is a wonderful nod to our history as a school, and the archivist thought it might be helpful to share some of the background to the house, and the name.

You can read about the history of the house itself in the attached link to Helen Hasting's "Old Houses of Monroe County." Miss Hastings was a pioneer local historian, and founder of the Brockport village museum.

One point that may be confusing is which house is, or was, the residence of the head of the school. Originally the principal lived in an apartment in the school building. Then after the Civil War a house adjoining the college was purchased as a home for the principal. That house served through Dr. Tower's time here. When he retired in 1964, President Brown came, and a decision was made to purchase the current property, the "Burlingame House," as the residence for the president, and the house on Utica Street became today's Alumni House.

The attached file is from the 1891 memorial booklet published in honor of Herman Burlingame. He was a mathematics instructor here for many years, and his story is not untypical of many of the faculty of that time, attending a local "seminary," teaching in one-room schools and so forth. One of Professor Burlingame's accomplishments was to create and sell a set of blocks designed as instructional aids for solving cube roots. (The blocks are kept in the Alumni House.)

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/2/
Douglass & Barrier (Daily Eagle 3/22/2016)

A special friendship between two leading figures of the 19th civil rights movement.

This past weekend the archivist was in Rochester, and in Highland Park ran across the statue of Frederick Douglass pictured here. While admiring the statue, and the quotes from his speeches on it, thoughts came to mind of the friendship between Douglass and the Barrier family of Brockport.

Fannie Barrier (Williams), first known black graduate of our school, Class of 1870, became a famous speaker on civil rights and women's issues after Brockport. Some of her inspiration came from her family acquaintance with Douglass. Her father, a local businessman, was active in civil rights issues of the day, and became acquainted with Douglass. In 1856 for example Anthony Barrier was one of those who welcomed Douglass to speak at what was called "Concert Hall," the building at the corner of Main and Market Streets that today houses Bittersweet.

In the latter 1870s Fannie, and her sister Ella, both worked as teachers in Washington D.C. Douglass had moved there from Rochester, and his home was a center of black society. He was a friend and mentor to the sisters, and Fannie became very close to him, turning to him for advice and encouragement. In later life he would stay with her and her husband at their home in Chicago when he was traveling in that region.

You can read more about their relationship in Wanda Hendrick's biography, Fannie Barrier Williams: Crossing the Borders of Region and Race. Ms. Hendrick will be here April 1, to speak at the Fannie Barrier Williams Women of Courage luncheon.
Inaugurations (Daily Eagle 4/11/2016)

*A brief history of inaugurations at Brockport.*

For much of our history, we did not actually have a president. As an academy (1835-1866,) and then a Normal school (1867-1941,) the head of the school was termed the "principal." This was because as an academy, or a Normal school, we were not in the formal sense a college, that is, an institution that grants bachelors or higher degrees. A similar history obtains at many of our peer schools, within and without SUNY.

During this century long period, the arrival of a new principal was an event of note, heralded in the village newspaper, and after 1914 in the pages of the Stylus as well. There were often welcome dinners, sometimes at the Roxbury, which, believe it or not, was actually once a quite popular and respectable dining place! However, in all these transitions there was not the sort of celebration and recognition that goes with the inaugurations of more recent years.

Ernest Hartwell was the last principal here, of the old Normal school. During his time, 1936-1944, the school, as did all NY state Normal schools, gained new status as a Teachers College, granting the first bachelor degrees to the class of 1942. (Prior to this what students received was a diploma, and a license to teach in the state schools.)

As befitted a Teachers College, the rank of principal was elevated to that of president, making Hartwell our first president, but there was no special ceremony. When Dr. Donald Tower came in 1944 he was the first person to come here as president. There was a recognition of his arrival, what they referred to as his "installation," but there was not the sort of ceremony with which we are familiar today.

The attached document has several news articles about Dr. Tower's installation as president. The remarks given by him in the village newspaper are interesting in their references to the need for higher education to be open to all, without reference to race, creed or color. Brockport had always been open to all, but in the years after WWII, when higher education expanded dramatically, this promise of diversity gained new prominence, and Dr. Tower was the school's first leader in that new era of opportunity.

The first incoming president to be recognized in an inauguration ceremony something like that taking place for President Macpherson at the end of this month was Albert Brown. When his inaugural ceremony was held in May 1966 there was the procession in academic regalia, the carrying of the ceremonial mace, the necklace and so forth. Ever since then this ceremony has been held as we celebrate the arrival of a new president.
In 1969 history professor Wayne Dedman wrote "Cherishing this heritage," a history of the school to that date. This scholarly book rested in large part on Dedman's use of primary sources in the archives of the school, and the files of the village newspaper. His note cards for that book survive, and are organized by topic, e.g. "Normal school building."

(Note: the Normal school building was an older complex that was replaced by Hartwell Hall in the late 1930s.)

It is rather fun, and instructive, to skim through those note cards, now digitized, and find out so much about the life of that school. In the summer of 1897 for example the Brockport Republic noted that among other improvements:

"In the south wing basement quite a large room is being fitted up as a place for the storage of the bicycles used by scholars. The entrance will be through a door at the foot fo the southernmost outside steps. There will be room for some one hundred and fifty wheels, and will be an improvement right in line with the times."

Follow the link given with this item to learn more about that era of our school.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/45/
A Little Library (Daily Eagle 9/19/2016)

A "Little Free Library" is coming to Brockport!

Many may be familiar with this popular movement, that of establishing "little free libraries." If you're not, picture a sort of house, like a bird house or doll house, except this model house is designed to hold books. The books are there on a "take one place one" sort of basis, and the idea is to encourage reading, community and so forth. There are some in our area, there is one in the Sweden Hills development, in neighborhoods in Rochester, Brighton and other locations.

The Friends of Drake Library has initiated the design and building of such a library for the college. The designer, Gordon Fox '66, was at first considering building a model of either Alumni House or Hartwell Hall, but on seeing some images of the old Normal school building he was taken with that and has decided to make that his model. He is going to build a scale model of the old Normal school building based on an 1878 catalog illustration.

His initial styrofoam model is shown here. This is the original building on campus, and stood about where Hartwell is now. The center portion was the old pre Civil War academy building, and the two wings were added in 1867 when we became a state Normal school.

It will be some time yet before the actual "library" will be constructed, and the place it will be located is yet to be determined, but we are excited to see this project unfold, capturing as it does so much of our history, and we hope it will serve as a connection between the college and the village communities.
New Student Writing Competition (Daily Eagle 9/26/2019)

The Friends of Drake Library are bringing a new writing competition to the campus.

The Friends of Drake Library are pleased to announce that they will be sponsoring a new undergraduate writing competition. The focus is on papers that demonstrate creative, extensive use of library and information resources. There will be three prizes: $500 for first place, $300 for second, and $150 for third place.

Entries must have been written for the spring 2016 or fall 2016 semesters for a class, project, etc. They will be 9 - 20 pages in length, with a minimum of 10 references.

Contest submissions will be collected online in the Digital Commons from Wednesday, January 4, 2017, through Sunday, February 12. The contest is limited to the first 20 submissions received. Entries will be reviewed and winners notified in April 2017.

More details will be forthcoming in these pages, the Stylus and other sources. Faculty, please mention this new contest to any students you think may be eligible.
1946 meets 2018 (Daily Eagle 10/13/2016)

A look at an internship currently underway in the Rose Archives.

This fall Betty Evershed '46 and Lyndsey Richards '18 are getting to be close friends. Lyndsey, a history major, is doing an internship in the archives researching the life of students at the College in WWII, the foundation of which study is Betty Evershed's scrapbook.

The scrapbook is a wonderful capture of life here in that era. It has everything, from Betty's acceptance letter to the college to class photos, snapshots of her and her friends at "Wallace Estates," the house they roomed in in the village, dance cards, articles she wrote for the Stylus, news items about war effort work in a local canning factory and much much more. Betty was president of her class and clearly a lively, active person.

Betty married after the war and taught for a number of years in the Webster schools. As Lyndsey's research goes forward she will be visiting the house in the village where Betty roomed, meeting with a member or two of the Class of '46 who are still with us, and we hope to get the scrapbook digitized so everyone can enjoy it from the Digital Commons. Lyndsey also hopes to do a Scholars Day presentation on this project in the spring.

Note: Lyndsey did digitize the scrapbook.
https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/47/
A progress report on the "Little Library" project.

The Friends of Drake Library, among other projects, have one going of setting up a "little library" on campus. We reported on this some time ago, and wanted to share an update on the project.

Gordy Fox ’66, the builder of the little library, sent some photos recently of it. It is almost done, as in the photo here. It looks great, a wonderful scale model of the old Normal school complex as it looked c1870. This building was the college for many years before it was torn down and replaced with Hartwell Hall 1938-39.

In addition to the little library, Cherise Oakley and her husband are donating a granite bench, with a quote from Margaret Fuller, selected by President Macpherson from a list the group submitted to her.

The actual location of these items is yet to be determined, but keep an eye out, sometime this spring they should be out on campus! If you'd be interested in taking part in the library Friends group contact Charlie Cowling, it is a great group doing a lot for the library and community.
Happy 50th anniversaries! (Daily Eagle 1/9/2017)

Many departments, the college itself in a sense, are in their 50th year this academic year.

Recently Nicole Dumbleton of our Development Office asked the archives about the date a particular department was established. A good question, it raises a bigger story, namely the shift here 50 some years ago from being a Teachers College to a College of Arts and Science. This was a dramatic transformation that took place in the first several years of President Brown's time here. In many respects that is when the college as we know it today was established.

Not only did we go from essentially two massive departments for the two degrees offered in the Teachers College to a wide range of academic departments and degrees, but other familiar bodies started then. For example the old Faculty Student Association ended and two new bodies were set up, the Faculty Senate and the Brockport Student Government. During this same period we went from having a small group of "watchmen" to having a professional police unit.

Attached is a document that at its end gives the list of academic departments then currently established, or soon to be established, as set forth in the summer of 1966. If anyone would like to know more about when their department or unit was established please do contact the archives!

Academic Departments and their dates

This list looks at the expansion of the 1960s. Since 1867 we had been a state Normal school, a teacher training institution that did not grant a bachelor degree, instead giving a permanent teaching certification. When we became a Teachers College in 1942 and on up through the early 1960s there were essentially only two degrees offered, and two departments, GE for General Education, to teach elementary and middle school, and PE, to teach Physical Education and Health. As the 1962 accreditation report stated, the college was “...a one-purpose unit...,” its purpose being the “…preparation of elementary teachers, health and physical education teachers, and junior high language and social studies teachers.” (In 1961 they had added mathematics and science for high school.)

This “one-purpose” was achieved by a simple division of faculty into two main groups: Elementary and Early Secondary Education, and Health and Physical Education. These two groups held the bulk of the faculty and provided the primary academic instruction. In addition there were campus school staff, administrators, physical plant staff etc.
The expansion of higher education continuing with a new president in 1965, Al Brown, the college embarked on an ambitious expansion befitting its newly granted status as a College of Arts and Science. This included not only continuing the growth of the physical campus which President Tower had initiated, but radically revising the organization as well in order to be able to offer all the new degrees. This expansion also included the establishment of the Faculty Senate as we know it today, and the Brockport Student Government. In large measure the college as we know it today first took something like its present form c1965-1966.

In the 1966 Ten Year Academic Plan, the following organization and schedule was laid out for the academic units. The departments without dates were those already established as independent departments, presumably sometime in 1965 or 1966. (A few “units,” like the campus school, had been around for 100 years at that point, and of course there had been faculty teaching biology, history and so forth ever since the school started, but this is when we first had an organization that looks familiar to contemporary eyes, offering a wide range of bachelor and master degrees through the various departments. Also these are only the departments either present or planned in the summer of 1966, some departments and programs were yet to come…)

Division of Fine Arts: Department of Art, Department of Music, Department of Theatre (1967) and Department of Dance (1967.)

Division of Humanities: Department of English, Department of Philosophy, Department of Speech and Department of Foreign Language.

Division of Social Sciences: Department of History, Department of Political Science (1967), Department of Anthropology – Sociology (1967) and Department of Economics (1967).

Division of Natural and Mathematical Sciences: Department of Mathematics, Department of Biology, Department of Earth Sciences – Geology (1967), Department of Psychology, Department of Physics (1967) and Department of Chemistry (1967).

Division of Education: Department of Education, Supervision of Student Teaching and Campus School. (Shows on a 1966 org chart. 1965 catalog shows three divisions – Education, Education PE/Health, and a division of liberal arts. That last would open up into multiple units in the next year.)

Division of Health and Physical Education: Department of Health, Department of Men’s Physical Education, Department of Women’s Physical Education and Department of Recreation (1968).
The Little Library that Gordon Fox, Class of 1966, was building is finished and is now on display in Drake Library, on the circulation desk near the cafe. Come have a look; it is a lovely bit of craftsmanship!

As noted before, this is an authentic, scale model of the old Normal school building c1870. This was our school for many years, until the late 1930s, when it was torn down and replaced by today's Hartwell Hall. It was built of Medina sandstone, covered in wisteria vines and was quite picturesque by all accounts ... 

The Little Library will be placed on campus somewhere on the lawn of Hartwell in the spring, along with a granite bench donated by Cherise Oakley and her husband,
A NJ artist at Brockport (Daily Eagle 2/27/2017)

Ambrose Corcoran's artwork rediscovered.

The archives recently got a call from someone inquiring about Ambrose Corcoran, who was in our Art Department 1946-1981. The caller was from New Jersey, and had bought a pastel artwork at an estate sale. When reframing it he discovered that the name on the back was Ambrose Corcoran, googled it, and ended up contacting the archives.

The caller has found a new vocation in retirement of rediscovering lesser known NJ artists of the '30s and '40s. As it happens Corcoran was from NJ, receiving his bachelors from NJ State at Newark, and his masters from Montclair. The caller shared a photo of the artwork, titled "Clifton Mill," 1938.

In addition to his art and teaching, Corcoran was quite involved in governance on campus, working with the Student Faculty Association in the '50s as it was getting started, and then in 1966 when that body was essentially replaced by the College Senate and BSG, Corcoran was the first president of the senate.
Stylus & the Women's Coalition (Daily Eagle 3/24/2017)

The most popular NYS Historic Newspapers title for the region in Winter 2017 was the Stylus, and using it turned up some surprising results.

There is a site online, a project of the state library councils, called NYS Historic Newspapers, which is a real treasure trove of NY history, politics, personalities and culture. Basically they take microfilm of old newspapers from around the state, digitize it, and add it to the database. Titles added recently included the Yates County Whig, 1839-1855 and the Bethpage Tribune, 1966-date. This means you can search the full text, download page images...

The Stylus is one of several college newspapers in the database, for the years 1928-2014. A lot of the college history there! Recently it was very useful in starting to trace the history of the Womens Center, which turned out to have a deeper history than had been thought. There were articles about a "Womens Coalition" in the '70s that led to the establishment of a Womens Center c1980, which seems to have flourished for a few years, well before today's center opened in 1997.

Women's coalition forms Feminist group seeks center

March 30, 1979
The Stylus

by Debbie Bank

"We are all women, and we women are entitled to be wields silent and unseen management," claimed Karen Cavallot, founder of Brockport State Women's Coalition.

Women's Coalition is a feminist group, to be established on campus, to be broadly interested in raising awareness of issues dealing with issues troubling women today.

The Women's Coalition is a new campus group with approximately 20 currently active members.

Cavallot said the group is actually the result of a "Womens Coalition" that was called the "Womens Coalition" by Dr. Milliam Miller. The group was active about feminism and women issues, before it changed its name to something that better suited with campus women's interests.

The result was the Women's Coalition.

Karen Cavallot is founder of Brockport State's new Women's Coalition.

The Women's Coalition consists of a group of people interested in the women's movement. The primary goal set early in the group's formation was to form a Coalition newsletter and a campus women's center.

The first newsletter will probably be distributed around the campus soon, and, Cavallot said. Plagued by the recent student demonstrations, "I think it is a great opportunity to learn more about women's concerns to women.

"We are all women, and we women are entitled to be wields silent and unseen management," claimed Karen Cavallot, founder of Brockport State Women's Coalition.

While the Coalition is a feminist group, it is interested in raising awareness of issues affecting women today.

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The first newsletter will probably be distributed around the campus soon, and Cavallot said. Plagued by the recent student demonstrations, "I think it is a great opportunity to learn more about women's concerns to women. It's something that could happen in any time. As a result, it has definite appeal," she said. Rosenberg added, it will provide opportunities to the College Community for participation in women's issues and activities.
Triumph #3 (Daily Eagle 4/17/2019)

A mechanical gem of the 19th century.

On April 18, at 7pm Charlie Cowling will be giving a talk at the Morgan Manning House on Main Street about the agricultural manufacturing concern of Seymour and Morgan. Both men were fascinating individuals, and their company was a cutting edge outfit both in mechanical and organizational innovation.

Shown here is a salesman's model of the Triumph Reaper #3 from the 1880s. This model is a gem of 19th century work, and was used by one of their salesmen to demonstrate how it worked. (The village museum even has an actual Triumph reaper on the top floor!)
Back in 1962 Eleanor Coselman, Class of 1948, was taking a grad class here, on the Folklore of the Empire State. Her paper was entitled "Reminiscing in Royalton," and was about the history and folklore of that community in Niagara County. A well written paper, but once the class was done and she had shared a copy with the library where it was placed in our local history collection it was little used for many years.

In recent years however it was scanned, and added in digital form to our Digital Commons, where it has been downloaded over 800 times! This is a great illustration of the promise of free and open access platforms like the Digital Commons, that documents and other materials that once were limited in access and use suddenly gain an entirely new life. Kim Myers of the library has done sterling work in guiding this platform to where it is today!

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/4/
Fascinating discovery of early debate about the senate’s role etc.

Adam Finkelstein ’17 is one of six students doing 3 credit internships in the Rose Archives this spring. His research has been on the former "Student Faculty Association," which ran from the late 1940s to the mid '60s. In 1965, as the college was expanding ever more, including going from being a Teachers college to a comprehensive liberal arts college, some major governance changes were made.

In brief what was done was to end the Student Faculty Association, replacing it with two separate bodies: the College Senate for the faculty & staff, and Brockport Student Government for the students. In the course of these changes there was a lot of debate about governance, how best to achieve it, what form it should take and so forth. What Adam ran across was a record of the debate, in a publication of the time called the Faculty Forum. The relevant issues are in the Spring of 1965 files. The debate is between two senior faculty figures of that time, Howard Kiefer, Philosophy, and Ambrose Corcoran, Art.
A little known part of our story...

It isn't well known today, but for a number of years the high school for the local community was conducted as part of the old Normal School's campus school. The "High School Department" as it was known was run by the College from the 1890s until the early 1930s.

It's a surprising example of how education has changed so much over the last century to realize that, at one time, high schools were an innovative form that was not present in all communities. It wasn't until about 1905 that Normal schools began to require all students to have a high school degree! By then, high schools had become common enough that it could be assumed all students had access to them, but in earlier years many localities simply did not.

Some communities, like Brockport, or it's sister Normal school communities like Plattsburgh and others, were fortunate to have those Normal schools there, running a high school as part of their campus school. Finally, in the later 1920s, the State Education department decided that times had changed sufficiently and that these Normal school towns could be expected to operate their own high schools, and by the early 1930s this transition had taken place. But for quite a period of years there were young people who did their entire education at the old Normal school, all the way from kindergarten to high school on to the Normal school!
Many know of "Bud" Richard Meade, retired HR from the college, and his "Updates" email newsletter. For those who don't, Bud, who worked here from 1968-2000, in his retirement started producing and sending out an email newsletter with stories and news about college retirees. This newsletter has been circulating now since 2001, and represents an astonishing amount of information.

The people one encounters in this newsletter represent a large cross segment of the staff and faculty who built the college up under President Brown and his successors. The newsletter includes stories about their time at Brockport, often with personal anecdotes that bring them to life, as well as about their lives after Brockport, and in many cases, their early careers before the college also are related to the reader. Bud Meade deserves a great deal of gratitude for collecting and distributing this newsletter as he has over the years! (Bud is center in the photograph.)
A recent stroll in the West Clarkson Cemetery revealed the grave of Abner Goodell, a principal of the Clarkson Academy in the 1830s. This school, like our forerunner the Brockport Collegiate Institute, was part of the early 19th century academy movement. In that era public schooling did not go beyond the common school offering of six grades. There were no middle or high schools, no community colleges, and very few colleges.

The academies were a transitional form in higher education that attempted to fill this considerable gap as people came to feel more and more the need for greater educational opportunities for their communities. These schools combined a wide range of offerings, serving in one setting opportunities that later were divided up between high schools, teachers colleges, prep schools and so forth. A notable aspect of these academies was that they generally were open to all, both women and minorities, in a time when the few colleges generally were not accessible in the same way.

The Clarkson Academy has some connections with Brockport. Charles McLean, who was head of our school for many years in the 19th century, got his start there. And if one desires to see what one of the old academy buildings looked like, while Brockport’s Collegiate Institute building is long gone, the Clarkson Academy building is still there, the brick building somewhat behind and beside the Clarkson Community Church on Ridge Road.
Rose Strasser’s Legacy (Daily Eagle 7/24/2017)

A biographical piece newly digitized on this Brockport dance legend.

Rose Strasser came to Brockport in 1946, just after WWII, when we were still a very small teachers college. A member of the physical education staff, her passion and focus was on dance. At that time, however, as a teachers college, faculty and programs were lumped into several large units, and there was no separate dance department. Over the years, Rose Strasser continued to add to and raise the prominence of dance at Brockport, leaving a remarkable legacy.

Her story is fascinating not only for the specifics of growing dance as a discipline, but for how it illustrates the dramatic shifts higher education experienced in the post-WWII era. Dance aside, her story parallels that of many others here and at similar institutions who pressed the limited boundaries of teachers colleges for their various disciplines. The College of today rests in many ways on the work of these folks.

You can read about all of this in the article linked here below, by Earl Yarington ’00. It is a piece that was done in conjunction with a dance alumni reunion in that time and includes extensive quotes from Strasser herself.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/dns_archives/7/
Cryptburgers (Daily Eagle 10/13/2017)

They probably were great, afraid we missed them though.

In the 1960s coffee house era Brockport had its own place, the "Crypt." The Crypt was in the basement hall of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on State Street. There were many elements of the typical coffee house scene, folk musicians, poetry readings and so forth. However, in their "Crypt Burgers" they may have hit a unique note!

Attached is a pdf of an article from the Stylus in 1965 highlighting the Crypt. Come to think of it, researching this could make a great student paper. The coffee house scene, the music, the setting for activism of various sorts, perhaps finding alumni who recall that era, interviewing them..
The scrapbook of Betty Evershed '46, which was digitized last year by archives intern Lyndsey Richards '18, is now online in the Digital Commons. This document is a fascinating, extensive capture of life at the College and in the Village in the WWII years. (Betty is 2nd from left in photo.)

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/47/
A fascinating new document on Brockport village history is now online. The document is the digitized version of a manuscript lent the College by the Knapp Museum. It is a series of articles or columns written by James Cornes over 100 years ago, recalling his growing up in Brockport before the Civil War. It's especially valuable since there is very little existing newspaper coverage of that era, so this is a rare opportunity to learn from a firsthand accounting.

Much of the scanning and editing was done by archives intern Tyler Beyea ’18.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/26/
An alternate Alma Mater (Daily Eagle 11/16/2017)

An alternate school Alma Mater from the 1960s was recently shared with the archives.

Greg Van Dussen ‘69 recently shared with the archives a copy of an alternate Alma Mater from his era here. The words to the original Alma Mater were written in 1915 by Marie Weldon ‘16, and the music is Gotteschalk’s "Last Hope."

Apparently in the mid 1960s two professors collaborated on a new Alma Mater. The composer of the score was music professor William Pottebaum, and the words were from George Painter, mathematics. According to Greg this version was the one students of his time were familiar with.

It is one of those confusing archival history tangles, where the one piece was the Alma Mater for many years, but somehow it was decided to use this alternate version, but then that newer version was let go of, and the older Alma Mater restored... Anyone knowing anything about all this is encouraged to let the archives know!

(See RG 5/7/fc)
A Rare Artifact (Daily Eagle 11/28/2017)

A recent donation of an artifact from our "Collegiate Institute" days.

Some will recall Wayne Dedman, History, who wrote the history of our school in 1969, Cherishing This Heritage. (Available in the library, and also online, see the accompanying link.) Somewhere along the line in his years at Brockport (1945-1981), he acquired the artifact pictured here. After his death, a former student, John Kohena '80, who had become close to Dedman and his wife, handled their estate. Not long ago John contacted the archives saying that he had some materials of Dedman's that he wanted to donate. One item, a retirement dinner scrapbook, is proving invaluable as history is celebrating their 50th anniversary as a department. Another is this item.

It is a heavy cast iron stamp that stands 4.5 inches high. You slip a piece of paper, perhaps stationary or an envelope etc. into the press, tap it, and the paper is imprinted with the stamp. (See attached pdf). The imprint conveniently allows for a close dating of the artifact, as it mentions a P. J. Williams, who was head of the school from 1861-1863. This was in the last years of our time as a private academy, a then common institution of higher education. Malcolm MacVicar, who succeeded Williams as head of the school, was instrumental in seeing through the transition from a private academy to State Normal School.
An interesting tribute to a professor who successfully navigated an earlier era of change.

Higher education is certainly experiencing tremendous and often fundamental changes nowadays. This isn't the first era in which such changes have happened, however. Just today in the archives we ran across the attached document and thought we'd share it. It is a 1991 tribute by Professor Jack Crandall to Professor Art Lee who had passed away that year. It is a fascinating depiction of change; imagine going from being a professor in a Normal School, a one-building school with perhaps 300 students, to being the first chair of a separate history department in a comprehensive college of almost 10,000 students! (Art Lee is on right in photo. See document in Lee file, RG26.)
"On seeing a picture..." (Daily Eagle 1/16/2018)

A young Brockport poet of the 19th century.

Eugenia Peckham Hartwell attended Brockport in its early days as a private academy. She was close with two women instructors here, Clara Thurston and Mary Mortimer, both of whom were beginning long careers as pioneers in higher education for women. Eugenia was a literary person, and wrote a good deal of poetry and prose, largely unpublished in her lifetime. After her early death during childbirth in 1854, family members published a small memorial volume of her work, which is held in the special collections of the library. Attached is a file with a poem of hers, some more biographical information, and an image of the school in the 1840s.

(See her file in RG26.)
Gay Freedom League (Daily Eagle 1/29/2018)

A presentation on the early history of gay rights at the college is now available online.

Lyndsey Richards '18, in an internship in the college's Rose Archives, researched the early history of gay rights at Brockport. It is a fascinating and little known story. Follow the link to learn more!

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/48/
Today's African American Studies department arose in the protest era of the late 1960s. The Black Student Liberation Front, predecessor of today's OSAD, was instrumental in achieving the establishment of the department. While there were a number of notable faculty in those early years, for example Ena Farley and Felix Okoye, today we are recognizing another outstanding figure, that of Michael Dei Anang.

A native of Ghana, he was a scholar, poet, playwright and political figure. We have books of his still in Drake Library. He was at Brockport from 1971-1978, when he passed away.

In a 1971 interview in the Stylus, he made some profound observations, including noting that "The foundations upon which men build their past is the basis of their future." He also observed that "We in Africa have something the Western world cannot ignore, and that is human spirit."
Tony Mascioli '54 in the news (Daily Eagle 2/28/2018)

An Out Alliance event coming soon that is named after a Brockport grad of the 1950s.

A Brockport history and archival connection: The Rochester Out Alliance is holding its first "Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues Archive Recognition Celebration" on March 24. The event is named for Brockport grad Tony Mascioli '54. The event email notes that he was: "...a colorful and charismatic entrepreneur who boldly celebrated being a gay man when it wasn’t socially acceptable or safe. He was personally and financially invested in all of our organizations, and we are proud to collaboratively present the Anthony Mascioli Rainbow Dialogues for the benefit of Rochester’s LGBTQ community and the community-at-large."
Lantern Slides revived (Daily Eagle 3/9/2018)

Some antique images get a new lease on life.

Many are familiar with the 35mm slides that were so common not very long ago, but few realize that there was another slide format before them. The earlier format was that of the lantern slides, 4"x3.25" glass slides that were projected through the "magic lantern" projectors of the time. There were companies that mass produced these slides, and sold them to institutions like the NY State Education Department, which then distributed sets of the slides to the various schools in the state.

There were slides of famous paintings, various countries and their life, different animals and so on.

Brockport Normal School had a large collection of these slides, and several projectors. Long after their active use ended in the 1950s when 35mm slides took over, the lantern slides were still here. Rich Hart, now retired, was an AV tech who rescued these slides and equipment from being discarded, and they eventually came to the archives.

Lately as a little side project the archivist has been scanning some of the bird images and uploading them to Flickr. (At some point a more extensive site will be set up on the College's Digital Commons.) The images are stunning, and were taken by prominent NY birders and ornithologists of the day, like Arthur Allen of Cornell, and Guy Bailey of Geneseo Normal. Not only were the original black and white photos quite well done, the ones that are hand colored are remarkable for their quality.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/lantern_slides/
Back in the 1950s the College was, as its own literature stated, a "single purpose" institution, and that purpose was teacher training. Later in the mid-1960s the College would as part of its ongoing expansion become a comprehensive liberal arts college, with various majors, such as chemistry for example. But before then we still were teaching chemistry here, to aspiring science teachers, and one of the faculty was Robert Brandauer, who taught here from 1946-1970.

In a 1947 Stylus article he is described as "...the man with a million dollar smile..." He had an MS in Chemistry from Cornell (1939,) and at the time was working on his doctorate. In a curious coincidence he had previously taught at Roberts College in Istanbul, where Professor Martin Rogers had also taught. Faculty like Brandauer were in from the beginning of that incredible arc the school traveled, from a small teachers college with less than 1,000 students to a major comprehensive institution with almost 10,000 students.
As we come up on the graduation of the Class of 2018 it seemed interesting to pay a visit to their predecessors of a century ago in the Class of 1918. It was a vastly different world in many ways of course, and that was true for education as in many other fields. In 1918 Brockport was one of the several New York Normal schools.

Normal schools were essentially single purpose schools, focused on teacher training. They were not colleges; one did not receive the bachelor degree. Instead, after completing the course of study, two years at this time, the graduate was given a license to teach in the state schools. In the early 20th century a high school education was still not all that common, let alone attending college, and so going to one of the Normal schools was a perfectly respectable educational attainment.

The Class of 1918 was far smaller than modern classes. There were 63 students in the main class, and nine in the special, shorter "rural school" course. Many of the students did of course go on to teach in area schools, perhaps as a life time career, but there was no formal commitment to teach. Some students graduated and then went on to other occupations, and some would transfer their credits to a college and go for another year or two to get a bachelor degree.

Many of the students were from Brockport and neighboring towns, but we also had students from farther afield, for example Tonawanda, Penn Yann, Utica, and Walworth. Gauging by the names and class photos most of the students were women.

That being the year the U.S. entered WWI, there was a mention in the Stylus commencement issue of how "...every loyal American began to devise some means by which he might 'do his bit' to help in stamping out the Prussian menace." War related activities included starting a Red Cross chapter and forming a cadet corps.

It wasn't all school work and war relief activities however. Sports were popular, especially basketball, which was the big sport on campus in that era and long after. The Stylus polled the student body, and made the discovery that the favorite chewing gum was Beaman's, with 27 votes, followed rather distantly by Wriggley's, with only seven votes! The favorite movie star was Mary Pickford, followed by a tie between Margaret Clark and Theda Bara. As for politics, 30 students said they were Republican, five Democrats, and five Prohibitionists, with a lone Socialist and seven Independents.

The head of the school was Alfred Thompson, whom Thompson Hall is named after, and he lived in what is today the Alumni House. Teachers included Aletta Edwards, an English instructor, whom Edwards Hall is named for, and Charles Cooper, head of the campus school, whom Cooper Hall is named for.

Shown here is one of the three group photos of the class that ran in the June Stylus that year, this one including what apparently was the class dog!
The scrapbook discussed here is both a memoir of the Class of 1944 and a tribute to then President Ernest Hartwell, who was retiring that year. Colleges across the country were, like Brockport, riding out the tumult of WWII on the home front as best they could. Even with many students leaving for military service, they carried on with course work and the social activities of that time, and this scrapbook with its many photographs and comments captures that era vividly. Since the text is predominantly handwritten, you may choose to view it as a test of your ability to still read cursive handwriting. ;-) 

There are some notable alumni in the book, for example Peg Hare Browne, who later taught in the old campus school and then our education department. After retirement, she was a champion booster of the college as both an emeriti and an alumna. She had become personal friends with Dr. Hartwell and his wife, and after his death, Mrs. Hartwell gave the scrapbook to Peg, who in turn gave it to the archives many years later. 

Nellie Gansworth was in this class, too. She was a Tuscarora from the Lewiston reservation and, in addition to a career as a school teacher, she and her husband were active informants for a dictionary of the Tuscarora language.

Enjoy your visit to 1944! [https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/49/]
Well, not that NBA, but a great group nonetheless!

For many years in the 1980s and '90s, a group of faculty and staff played in an informal, but competitive basketball league, the "Noontime Basketball Association." Recently, they had a reunion at Bill Gray's in Brockport, and at that time the MVP Player Trophy and a section of plank from the old Tuttle floor were given into the care of the Rose Archives.
A recently discovered c1965 photo in the archives shows Russell Wallin (Chemistry 1945-1977), on the right, with an unidentified student. They're on the steps of one of the temporary buildings that were parked on the south side of Hartwell Hall in the 1950s and '60s, along the railroad tracks where it is now parking lots. The socks, the bow tie, the cigarette — different times indeed!

*An African-American grad of the 1950s and a pioneer in pre-kindergarten education.*

Recently, an African-American graduate of Brockport in the 1950s was mentioned in the news, and some of us did a little research on her. We found that Florence Brown came to Brockport from New Rochelle, NY, in our Teachers College days as a "GE" student, general education, that is. A Baptist at home, she was active in a couple of student religious groups of the time, the Canterbury Club for Episcopalian students, and the Wesley Fellowship for Methodists.

After graduating from Brockport in 1955, she got her first job as a kindergarten teacher at School #4 in Rochester. She was later one of the founders of the Regional Pre-Kindergarten Demonstration Center which opened in Rochester in 1966. Today, the center, at School #33, is named in her honor.

According to a 2012 article in the Democrat & Chronicle, Brown's "...interest in working with children started during her own youth growing up in New Rochelle..., where her mother was a nursery school teacher who inspired her daughter to follow in her footsteps."

The article quoted a colleague of Brown's, who recalled that "She would always get down to the children's level. She was a very tall, stately person. I can still see her beautiful plaid skirts and sweaters. She'd get right down to the floor, always conscious of the eye level with the children."

Brockport has been open to people of color and women ever since its beginnings in the early 19th century, but African-American students were few and far between, in part because their numbers in the region were small. After WWII, the demographics changed, higher education expanded dramatically, and in the 1950s one begins to see a much more substantial diversity at the college.

According to her obituary, Florence S. "Tootsie" Brown passed away in 1990, but her legacy still continues, a legacy that had some of its roots here at The College at Brockport.
Brockport’s other archives (Daily Eagle 8/10/2018)

A gem from a private archive of College materials.

The archivist recently visited with Jeanette Banker '53, who is both an alum and an emerita (Campus School and Education). She has been a wonderful advocate of the College for many years, and her long association with the school has allowed her to build quite an archives of her own. She gave some things today to be added to our archival collections, great materials, including the speech attached here which we had not seen before.

The materials mostly related to her friend Blanche Southcombe March. Blanche was a 1929 graduate of the old Normal School. She was one of those folks in the early 20th century who went to the Brockport high school when it was housed within our campus school, or “training school,” as it was called then. Afterwards she continued on at Brockport for her Normal School education to become a teacher.

Her father was a farmer on Redman Rd., and after finishing Brockport she was a teacher in the Hilton schools for many years. Like Jeanette Banker, she was a generous and active supporter of this school, and in 1993 she was recognized at a banquet in her honor, which is where she gave the speech attached.
Newman Club (Daily Eagle 8/21/2018)

Some history of this long running club...

It is an interesting story, and one captured in loving detail in John Kutolowski's book on the subject which is accessible in our Digital Commons via the above link. In brief, the ethnic and religious mix of western NY where we historically have drawn our students changed substantially in the early 20th century to include increasing numbers of Catholics. (In the early, handwritten registration books held in the archives for c1866-1890s one column noted student "religious persuasion" and Roman Catholic is rarely listed.)

Two faculty, Josephine Mannix and Clara Stratemeyer, guided a group of students as they established the Newman club in 1940. Francis Claffey was co-faculty advisor with Mannix in the early years after Stretemeyer left Brockport. In the post WWII years one sees the rise of religious clubs on college campuses. Brockport was no exception and after the Newman club came a Student Christian Fellowship, the Canturbury Club, Wesley Fellowship and so on. Many of these clubs are long gone, but the Newman Club has survived and we wish it the best in the years to come.

(Note: as of Fall 2019 the Newman Club no longer meets at the Newman Center building on Adams St. They have moved their meetings to the Nativity church on Main St. and the building was sold to a non-denominational church, the River Church.)

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/40/
Recently while at the "Appleumpkin" festival in the village of Wyoming, south of Brockport, the archivist had the chance to tour the old Middlebury Academy building, which is today the home of the local historical society. Located on Route 19 in Wyoming, this was a peer school to our predecessor the Brockport Collegiate Institute. They both were part of the widespread "academy" movement of the pre-Civil War years. These schools had elements of a modern high school, prep school and college, but truly were something unique all their own.

Like Brockport, the academy in Wyoming was initiated and supported by local people desiring better educational opportunities for their community. The man who settled the village, Silas Newell, led the drive to establish the academy, and he was the one who actually built the brick building for it in 1817, which still stands today two centuries later. The academy followed the typical trajectory of such institutions, being successful in its earlier years, then in the post Civil War era as public schooling expanded and other options more available, the academy closed and the building was used for local public schooling until 1912. The building is only open on Sundays, Memorial Day through September, but one could always park and walk up the hill to see it from the outside.
Hartwell Hall, so named in 1965, is the oldest building on campus. It was erected in 1938—39, replacing the old Normal school building. The center of that building replaced the previous structure which had been destroyed by fire in 1854. Over time several wings were added on, all in the same style, of local Medina sandstone, much of which came from a quarry on what is now West Canal Rd.

In the late 1930s Ernest Hartwell was head of the school, and after successfully staving off a threat of closure, he further succeeded in getting funding to replace the school's building, which was dated and in poor condition, (Hartwell did in fact lobby the state to purchase land to the west, envisioning a time when the school, then totally surrounded by residences, might need to expand, but the state officials did not share his vision.)

The photo here, from the 1940 Saga yearbook, gives a glimpse of how they did it, tearing down the old building in stages and replacing it with the new building. This photo has you looking from the last section of the old building, the "training school" or campus school wing, towards the new building's center. If you follow the link given you can access a digitized version of the 1940 yearbook spread on the new building.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/student_archpapers/52/
A prominent Brockport educator of an earlier era is still remembered.

Just yesterday, the archives got an email asking about Clara Stratemeyer, who was here from 1936 to 1946. She had been the president of the Association of Teacher Educators in 1938, and with the association celebrating its centennial this year, they are looking for information on educators like her who were leaders in their field.

Her time at Brockport covered the substantial transition we made from being a Normal School to being a Teachers College. This meant going from a three-year program which finished with not a bachelor's degree, but a teaching license, to a four-year program with bachelor's degree.

When she came here, she was working on her PhD, which she received in 1942 from Columbia University. This was a distinction in an era when many Teachers College faculty did not have a PhD, and it was not essential as a terminal degree. She was active in many educational groups beyond the one who contacted us. Along with several other Brockport educators of that day, she was a founding member of the Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an educators society.

She was an active researcher, too, in an era when the weight of expectation for faculty fell on teaching more than scholarship. She had traveled extensively in France and particularly Germany in the late 1920s and early 1930s, researching their teacher training programs.

Clara Stratemeyer was also active in many ways beyond her role as what would be an education professor nowadays. She was instrumental in helping students at Brockport establish the Newman Club, for example.
We all know that secretarial staff are vital to the work of the college, but they are often somewhat unrecognized. In an effort to address that, here is a nice shot of a secretarial group from a 1955 yearbook recently found in the archives. It was posted in the "Remembering Brockport" group on Facebook and, after just a few minutes, had a number of likes and comments from friends and relatives of the women in the photo:


Back row: Alma Rudman, Beulah Browne, Mary Ann Shreve.
Those One Room Schools and Academies (Daily Eagle 1/17/2019)

A great student paper from 1962, now digitized and available online!

In 1962 Ruth Allport wrote a paper for a Folklore of the Empire State class at the college, and deservedly got high marks. Her paper is on the early schools and academies of Niagara County, but it is not only good local history, its depiction of those institutions could well be that of schools in many parts of the country in the 19th century. Writing when she did she was able to interview some old timers who had personal recollections of that era, and she included several photos of old school buildings.

Those one room schools weren't always the idyllic scenes of popular imagination. One former student recalls hiding behind the coat rack while the bigger boys fought their "bloody" battles. Allport discusses the accepted need back then for teachers to use corporal punishment, and how that sometimes crossed lines. Her description of the academies once present in Lewiston, Wilson, and so on could equally describe our school back in its Brockport Collegiate Institute days.

Some intriguing people emerge too, like Belva Ann Lockwood, one of the first women to be accepted to practice before the Supreme Court, and Henry Sibley, who became the head of the newly established library and archives at Syracuse University.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/local_books/29/
This past year Julie Pruss of the Office of the President, gave a cook book that had belonged to her mother, Helen Blodgett Massar, to the archives. The cook book was done by the Faculty Women's Association in 1974 using member’s recipes, and has an international theme. The recipe maker names will be familiar to many, and there are some great ideas for that next dinner or brunch! Follow the link to download the digitized cook book.
A new arrival to the archives captures something of the charm of the old Normal school building.

The photo shown here just came to the archives courtesy of Kathleen Facar of Batavia. Her grandmother, Bessie Johnson, was a member of our class of 1915, and this photograph had belonged to her. Bessie was a member of Agonian, one of the several sororities and fraternities active in the Normal school. These groups were not only social groups for the members, but they organized and sponsored most of the extracurricular activity at the school, everything from dances and debate contests to the popular spring event of "Color Day."

This is one of the best photos the archivist has seen of the interior of the Normal school. That Medina sandstone building stood where Hartwell Hall is today, by which it was replaced in 1938-39. It was a lovely building in many ways with its reddish sandstone covered in wisteria, and the interior had its charm, too, as seen here. Each of the Greek letter groups had their own room in the building, and this is the Agonian room as it looked about a century ago.
This August will be the 40th anniversary of the Special Olympics at Brockport.

Most people have a vague awareness that the college once hosted a Special Olympics here, that the statues on either side of the library date from that event and so on, but may not know much more than that. The story really is an incredible one, so much more than those statues, as handsome an addition to campus as they are. To find out more about when we hosted the 1979 International Special Olympics, read the document linked below. A great story on the event from our former newsmagazine, The Kaleidoscope, by Nick Mascari whom many will remember.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/specolymp_docs/1/
A rediscovered special newspaper

The truth is that there really is a lot of stuff in the archives, and so it was only recently that this special newspaper was rediscovered. It was a special run, one week only paper, "The Olympic Special," done for the week of the Fifth International Special Olympics which were held here the week of August 8, 1979. Sarah Watts was the editor, and the five daily issues of this paper capture the event well. There are many great stories in there, about both college and village volunteers, the athletes, celebrities, which conveys the sheer scale of the whole thing. You can read it using the link below.

https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/specolymp_docs/4/
"Olive and Green?" (Daily Eagle 4/25/2019)

The history of the school colors.

According to the January 1902 Normalia, forerunner to the Stylus, "A short time ago a committee of students was appointed in conjunction with Prof. McFarlane to choose colors for the school. They finally decided on olive and yellow. The colors were worn for the first time on Dedication Day, when they adorned the speakers and faculty, and blossomed out in brilliancy on our loyal alumni."

The colors were highlighted in an annual event which launched in 1902, that of "Color Day." After initially referring to the colors as olive and yellow, by May 1902 the report on the first Color Day noted that, "In the office windows were the green and gold banners. The faculty and students appeared in chapel wearing the school ribbons..."

In a 1932 Stylus article reference was made to the long standing tradition that "...the green of the grass and the yellow of the dandelion constitute the school colors..." This last is an interesting statement when one considers the contemporary controversies over the use of lawn pesticides, imagine a time when dandelions weren’t the enemy!
In 1949 the English Club launched their annual student literary magazine, titled Vistas. Clarence Styza, English, was lead advisor to the new publication. With some title changes, the publication has continued on to the present day, now known as Jigsaw. 2019 marks its' 70th year of publication.

Matt Kensek '19, is this years Editor-in-Chief. He made a great connection with Brockport history with this years issue. His cover art features artwork originally done by John Nelson '55 for the 1954 issue of Vistas, the predecessor to Jigsaw.

Student literary work is as old as the school itself. Eugenia Hartwell for example, who attended our forerunner, the Brockport Collegiate Institute, was a poet, a volume of whose work was published in 1855 after her untimely death in childbirth.
This spring, the English Club literary magazine Jigsaw was published. In a thoughtful nod to the 70th year of the club and its publications, editor Matt Kensek ’19 used an original cover done by John Nelson ’55 for the 1954 Vistas, the name of the club publication then. Matt sent two copies of this spring's Jigsaw to John, and received a wonderful letter back, which is shared here. What a great connection between Brockport generations!
A book is published about a remarkable local discovery.

A few years ago, Sue Savard, a leading volunteer at the village museum, the Knapp Museum, discovered several trunks in the attic of the old Seymour house the museum is located in. Left unexamined for many decades, the trunks were found to contain a large number of notebooks, sketches, and paintings by Helen Hastings.

Helen Hastings was a known local figure, a gr-niece of William Seymour, a keen local historian, and the person who established the village museum. No one had realized, however, that in her youth she had been such an artist! It turns out that she had studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art from 1898-1904 under some of the leading art instructors of the day. Her notebooks and artwork are a fascinating window onto the art world of a century ago.

Sue Savard has transcribed the notebooks, the sketches have been scanned, and the resulting book would be a wonderful addition to anyone's local history or art collections. The book is "Helen Hastings Art In A Trunk," compiled by Sue Savard and available on amazon.com.
We had a high school...?

*We did: the High School Department of the old Normal school!*

On occasion, the archives gets a genealogy request, and the most recent came in person after giving a talk on the academy movement of the 19th century to the Clarkson Historical Society. The questioner said their aunt had gone to Brockport c19010, and then taught in a one room school in Clarendon for many years.

A little digging revealed that the aunt had not been a Normal school grad, which is what the college was then, a teacher training school. She had, however, attended the "High School Department" housed in the "Training School," (later known as the Campus School).

The educational landscape was a lot different a century ago. One confusing part of it is that while high schools had become a pretty common institution by that time, in towns like Brockport with a state Normal school, the local high school was part of the Normal school. As a matter of fact, some students did K-12 all in the Normal school training department, and then moved down the hall to go to the Normal school, and thus had their entire education here!

The high school was with us from about 1902 to 1931. In the late 1920s, the state began putting pressure on the towns that had Normals running high schools and insisted that the towns take over the responsibility. In Brockport, the town built a new high school building, today the middle school, and opened that in 1932. Getting back to that questioner's aunt, although she didn't get a Normal diploma and license to teach in the elementary schools in the villages and towns, as a high school graduate she was eligible to teach in a rural one room school, which she did in Clarendon for many years.
A bit of our early history around the 50th anniversary of the wrestling team at the College.

This fall there will be a celebration of our wrestling team, and Coach Murray's outstanding 50 year career, which began in 1969. It will be a most well deserved recognition of this great team, and great coach!

Around 1960 interest began growing in starting a wrestling team at the College. In 1959 four Brockport students (Bill Linkner, Paul Geil, Roy Hunt and Gary Crawford) created an unofficial Brockport team and competed in a few wrestling meets in Buffalo and Rochester.

In 1962 a team was formally organized and launched, coached by incoming professor Tom "Lefty" McIntyre, pictured here. Before coming to Brockport, he coached a successful team at Missouri State. The new team got off to a good start, defeating Hobart in their first match. The star wrestlers for Brockport at that time were Ernie French, Jim Johnson, and Dave Keller.
Throwback Thursday (Daily Eagle 8/8/2019)

Sideburns and microfilm!

The archives maintains a page on Facebook (see below link), and recently, we got a message about a post from some time ago. The image in the post is shown here, but until now, it was not known who the young man in the photo was.

The photo is part of a set of slides for a "virtual" tour of the library, 1971 style. Back then, the library was in the original Drake, which is today's Rakov. At that time, microfilm was a big thing, and in this photo, Tim Fabrizio, as we now know him, is showing how to use a microfilm reader. Thanks to the person who messaged us on Facebook, college retiree Greg Ketchum, we now know that it was Tim and were able to contact him. He was rather surprised to get an email with photos like this of himself almost a half century ago!
Footage of 1930s Brockport now Available (Daily Eagle 8/16/2019)

*Rare home movie footage is now available online!*

Back in the 1930s a student named Emmett Costich in the "training school," used his father's movie camera to record various events and about the village. Costich later donated the film to the Rose Archives of the college.

In the Fall of 2014, Ian Hauck '15, who was interning for the archives, chose to research, edit, caption, and make presentable the original digitized material. He later presented the film at Scholars Day the following spring.

We recently uploaded his edited version of the footage to the College's Digital Commons, where it is free to access and view.

Take some time to travel to the past and visit Brockport from over 80 years ago! To help orient viewers, much of the film footage was shot on the campus of the old Normal school (the section of the campus where Hartwell Hall currently lives). At the time Costich was shooting, Hartwell Hall had not yet been built and the school building was the Medina sandstone structure that roughly stood where Hartwell is now.

[https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archival_videos/1/](https://digitalcommons.brockport.edu/archival_videos/1/)
Premier Art Exhibit (Daily Eagle 9/11/2019)

*A fascinating exhibit is coming to the Knapp Museum the weekend of September 14.*

As some know, a couple of years ago there was a significant discovery in the attic of the Village of Brockport’s Knapp Museum. Volunteer Sue Savard found a set of trunks, long unopened, which turned out to hold original artwork, artist’s notebooks, and related materials. They belonged to Helen Hastings, who was a great-niece of William Seymour (local inventor) and she had lived in the Seymour house at 49 State Street, where the village museum is now located.

Helen, who died in the 1950s, was well known as a local history writer, and founder of the village museum, but no one had known anything about her artistic work as a young woman. At the turn of the last century she had studied at a prestigious art school in Philadelphia, with some of the top artists of the day, and the paintings and materials found capture that experience, as later efforts. Her active artwork seems to have ended at some point, and she shifted her focus toward history.

Sue Savard has worked with local artist Sarah Hart to learn more about these materials, and a book has even been published on them. Local photographer Greg Lawrence generously scanned the artwork. Now a studio room will be unveiled at the museum to showcase Helen Hastings work. See the attached poster for details.
The attached map was drawn by Harry Green, Class of 1949, and depicts the campus and college in 1949. The post-WWII expansion in higher education was underway and student numbers were growing well beyond what the one building complex (today's Hartwell Hall) could accommodate. Desperate for more classroom and housing space, the College initially made do with a variety of "temporary" buildings (many of which ended up being used for a number of years).

On the south side of the main building, Hartwell, you can see a number of structures along the railroad tracks. This array of buildings included Quonset huts from a naval base, POW barracks from Hamlin Beach, and other makeshift expedients.

Looking west, past Hartwell, across Kenyon, you see two streets that no longer exist, West College and Millard Streets. In the years to come, the college would expand into what in 1949 was a residential neighborhood of about 60 homes. President Ernest Hartwell, when negotiating to rebuild the school in the late 1930s, had foreseen that in the event of future growth this could happen and had urged acquiring land further west and building a new building there, where Drake and Allen are today, the land not in residential use. He was told however that he could only get funding for a new building where the old Normal school was on Utica Street.

If you look on the west side of Kenyon you see a "girl's dorm." This was "West Hall," a hastily constructed frame building that served as a temporary dorm for women. On the west side of what was then the village high school, today the middle school, were the college athletic fields, where Tuttle is today.

This 1949 map wouldn't be accurate for long, in 1950-51 the college built two new permanent buildings on Kenyon Street, Lathrop, and Morgan, and the great campus expansion of the 1950s and '60s was underway.