

SOCIETY FOR
INDUSTRIAL
ARCHEOLOGY

44th Annual Conference, Albany, New York May 28-31, 2015

This year's SIA conference will be headquartered in Albany, capital of New York State and the oldest continuously chartered city in the nation. Located near the head of tidal navigation on the Hudson River estuary, about 135 miles north of New York Harbor, Albany and its surrounding region at the confluence of the Hudson and Mohawk rivers has a rich history of manufacturing and engineering that remains vital today.

Transportation has always been one of the area's defining characteristics—river navigation, canals, railroads, and highways fostered manufacturing. Robert Fulton initiated regularly scheduled steamboat transportation between Albany and New York City in 1807. The Erie Canal, opened in 1825, connected the Atlantic Ocean with the upper Great Lakes and the interior of North America while the Champlain Canal opened a new route into eastern Canada. Those waterways remain in service today.

New York's first railroad, the Mohawk & Hudson, opened between Albany and Schenectady in 1831, cutting passenger travel time from a full day by canal to less than an hour by train. In 1853, ten railroads between Albany and Buffalo were consolidated to form the New York Central. A swing-bridge over the Hudson at Albany, completed in 1866, provided a connection to the Hudson River RR and the Boston & Albany on the east shore. The New York Central was Albany's largest single employer from 1875 through 1920, with vast stockyards, locomotive and car shops on the west side of town and passenger facilities along the riverfront. Meanwhile, the Delaware & Hudson established a rail connection between Pennsylvania's anthracite coal fields and Albany, and northward to Montreal.

Albany products included cast iron stoves and architectural ironwork, agricultural machinery, celluloid billiard balls, leather baseballs, and vast quantities of beer. Troy, a short distance upstream, produced iron goods of every description, surveying instruments, bells, and detachable shirt collars and cuffs. Watervliet Arsenal, established in 1813, produced some of the largest gun tubes ever made. Schenectady, home to American Locomotive Works (ALCO) and General Electric boasted that it was the "city that lights & hauls the world."

This region was also the cradle of Industrial Archeology in North America. Robert Vogel's 1969 Mohawk-Hudson Survey was the pilot for today's Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), establishing standards for documentation of industrial and engineering sites that we still strive for today. Participants in that project helped found SIA.

We will visit some of the region's engineering landmarks, representatives of its distinctive industries and several "new-tech" manufacturers that have risen from its industrial base. This year's conference also features the biannual Historic Bridge symposium, co-sponsored by SIA and the Historic Bridge Foundation, with special presentations and a tour that focuses on the region's historic spans.



Pouring Iron, Rathbone & Sard stove foundry, Albany ca. 1911
NYS Archives

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Thursday, May 28

- Pre-conference tours*
- Welcome Reception for New Members
- Evening Reception and orientation at conference hotel
- Dinner on your own

Friday, May 29

- Choose one of five all-day bus tours
- Dinner on your own
- SIA Industrial Film Festival

Saturday, May 30

- Full day of research presentations & exhibits
- Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon
- SIA Banquet*

Sunday, May 31

- Post-conference tour of IA Landmarks in the Hudson-Mohawk region*
- *Optional events, see registration form

Conference Hotel

Hilton Albany, 40 Lodge Street, Albany, NY 12207

SIA's conference headquarters is located downtown, at the corner of State and Lodge streets, two blocks from the state capitol building, with restaurants and interesting architecture nearby. The SIA conference rate is \$142 /night (plus tax) with \$5 /day parking. Contact hotel directly for reservations at 800-445-8667, 518-462-6611, or www.hiltonalbany.com and mention the group rate code 4SFIA. Conference rate expires April 27.

Getting to Albany

Planes: Albany International Airport (ALB), about 10 miles from the conference hotel, is served by direct flights from Atlanta, Baltimore, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Denver, Detroit, Minneapolis, Newark, Philadelphia, and Washington.

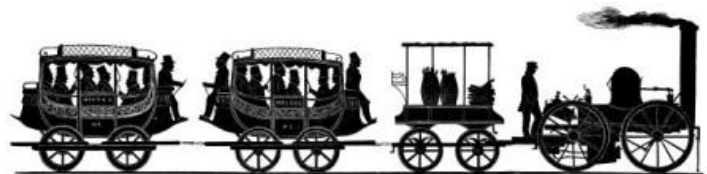
Trains: Amtrak's Albany-Rensselaer station (ALB) is across the Hudson from the hotel. It is served by at least ten "Empire Service" trains to and from New York City every day, four to and from Buffalo, and as well as daily runs originating in Chicago, Toronto, Montreal, Rutland, VT, and Boston. The views along several of these routes are spectacular and worth the trip in their own right.

Hilton Albany hotel offers a free shuttle service to and from Albany International Airport and the Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak station. Please contact the hotel directly to arrange a pickup -518-462-6611.

Automobiles: Albany is less than a 3 hour drive from Boston, Providence, or New York City; 4 hours from Philadelphia or Montreal; and 6 from Toronto or Washington. There are lots of interesting IA stops and detours along the way. Look to the SIA website for suggestions.

NOTE: Schedules in this brochure are *approximate*. Please watch for emails and check www.sia-web.org and your registration packet for updated times, details, and web links. To request vegetarian or other special meals, contact SIA event coordinator Julie Blair: siaevents@siahq.org

DeWitt Clinton locomotive (built at West Point Foundry)
towing carriages on Mohawk & Hudson RR – September 1831



CONFERENCE EVENTS – Included in Registration

Thursday, May 28 (evening events at Hilton Albany)

5:00-6:00 PM – New Members' Welcome

6:00-8:00 PM – Opening Reception – light snacks, cash bar, and an orientation to the history of manufacturing in the Hudson-Mohawk region and to the days ahead.

Friday, May 29

Choose one of the following all-day tours (lunch and transportation included)

F1 – Schenectady & Vicinity – Environment-One, Niskayuna - manufacturer of self-contained sewage pumps for residential and municipal applications; Applied Robotics, Glenville – builds gripping devices and controls for industrial robots; Integrated Fab Technologies, Glenville – component and accessory maker for GE turbines; Tough Traveler, Schenectady – maker of luggage, backpacks, camera bags & EMS kits.

F2 – Power & Transportation – Amtrak repair shops, Rensselaer – where locomotives and cars operating between New York and Toronto are serviced; Empire Generating Company, Rensselaer – 645 MW combined-cycle gas fired generating station; Port of Albany – where grain, heavy machinery, and scrap are exported and wood pulp, palm oil, and petroleum come in; Waterford Flight, Erie Canal – five locks that raise and lower boats 169' in 1-1/2 miles, the highest lift in the shortest distance in the world when it was completed in 1915 (ASCE landmark); NYS Canal Shops, Waterford – 1921 machine shop, sawmill, and drydock where lock gates and valves are built and repaired and canal vessels are maintained; Mechanicville Hydroelectric Plant – Built 1897, oldest continuously operating plant in the nation with original equipment in service.

F3 – New Tech – Port of Coeymans – where sections of the new Tappan Zee Bridge are being assembled & loaded onto barges to be shipped downriver; TCI-NY, Coeymans – transformer rebuilder; Scarano Boat Building, Port of Albany – builder of passenger ferries, cruise boats, and historic replica vessels. A 165' aluminum-hulled tour boat, designed for architectural tours around Manhattan, will be nearing completion at the time of SIA's visit; SUNY College of Nanoscale Engineering & Science, Albany – R&D facility for the microchip industry with complete prototyping lines.

F4 – Hudson-Mohawk Industries -- Ross Valve Manufacturing, Troy – Founded 1879, makes automatic valves for water supplies in sizes ranging from 1" to 60"; NYS Canal Shops & Waterford Flight (see descriptions in F2); Mohawk Paper, Cohoes – manufacturer of fine printing paper; Plug Power, Latham – maker of hydrogen fuel cells used as drop-in replacements for lead-acid forklift batteries.

F5 – Bridges – Assembly & loading of new Tappan Zee Bridge sections at Port of Coeymans; NY Central swing bridge, Albany – 1906 replacement for 1866 swing span that opened a direct rail connection between NY and Chicago; Cohoes-Waterford Bridge -- 1932 six-arch concrete span, soon to be demolished; Union Bridge, Waterford-Troy -- 1909 Phoenix Bridge Company trusses on 1804 piers that originally supported Burr arch/truss (ASCE landmark); Whipple bowstring truss over Enlarged Erie Canal, Vischer Ferry; Schoharie Aqueduct – 1842 built to carry Enlarged Erie Canal (NHL); NY Barge Canal movable dam suspended from bridge truss; with photo stops at other historic spans along the way.

Friday Evening, May 29

Fifth Annual SIA Film Festival – featuring G.E. industrial films from the collections of MiSci, Schenectady, supplemented by industrial shorts from the collections of New York State Library. (7:00-10:00 PM)

Saturday May 30 – Daytime events at Hilton Albany

8:00–11:30	Morning Presentation Sessions
11:45–1:15	Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon
1:30–5:00	Afternoon Presentation Sessions
All Day	Exhibits, Posters & Book Sales

Session topics, presentation titles, and a list of speakers will be posted on the SIA website: www.sia-web.org

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES (extra fees apply – see registration form)

Thursday, May 28

- T1 – Sharon Springs** (8:30-5:00) day-long bus tour to visit: AMT Castings – lost-wax foundry making non-ferrous castings for the aerospace and firearms industries; Contractors Millwork – window sash and molding manufacturer using belt-driven machinery housed in a 19th century RR freighthouse; Thistle Hill Weavers – where 19th and early 20th century industrial textile machinery is used to produce reproduction fabrics used in building restorations and movie costumes.
- T2 – U.S.S. Slater** – (10:30-noon) tour engine room and other below decks spaces that are not open to the public on board the last surviving WWII destroyer escort in the country. (Tour involves steep gangways and confined spaces and is therefore limited to able-bodied members)
- T3 – NYS Capitol** – (1:00-2:30) clamber through the roof trusses and other non-public areas of New York’s capitol, America’s most expensive public building when it was completed in 1899. (Tour involves climbing and limited to 15 able-bodied members)
- T4 – Downtown Albany IA walking tour** – (3:00-4:30) led by City Historian Tony Opalka, focusing on commercial, industrial, and transportation buildings in Albany’s original port and warehouse district. Tour limited to 20. Organized by Historic Albany Foundation
- T5 – Albany Beverages** – (3:30-6:00) Before Prohibition, Albany was home to many breweries and distilleries. Local businesses including Nine Pin Cider Works, Albany Distilling, and C.H. Evans Brewing Co., are revitalizing those traditions utilizing New York grown fruit, grains, and hops.
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Saturday Evening, May 30

- SB – Saturday Banquet** (6:00-9:00 PM) – Dine at the National Register listed University Club, a few blocks from the conference hotel. Space is limited, so please register early.
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Sunday, May 31

- S1 – I.A. Landmarks of the Hudson-Mohawk Region** -- Bus tour through historic industrial districts of North Albany, Watervliet, Cohoes, Waterford & Troy with stops at: Cohoes Falls – largest waterfall in the east after Niagara, source of water for a six-level power canal system that used to drive mills throughout the city; Harmony Mills – once the largest cotton textile complex in the country; Troy Gasholder House – inspiration for the SIA logo; Burden Ironworks, Troy – site of the world’s largest overshot waterwheel. The Burden Company office building is now home to Hudson-Mohawk Industrial Gateway and a museum devoted to the region’s manufacturing. One bus will return via Albany Airport for those who need to catch early afternoon flights.