

SOURCE: Student Organization for Unique and Rare Collections Everywhere
Society of American Archivists Student Chapter
Minutes for October 20, 2025, 6 pm Meeting

Contacts: rutgers.source@gmail.com

Kelan Amme, President

Hilde Creager, Vice President

Jillie Fisch, Webmaster

Tallulah Pentecost, Secretary

Advisor: Marija Dalbello (dalbello@comminfo.rutgers.edu)

Attendees:

Kayla Doyle (speaker)

Kelan Amme

Hilde Creager

Jillie Fisch

Tallulah Pentecost

Marija Dalbello

Ryan Mulligan

Erin (?)

Sydni Palmer Washington

Yaritza Santana

Andrew Martin

Ilana Berkman

Michael Tashbook

Maria Paz-Lopez

Adriana Cuervo

Ashli Aaron

Cynthia Walker

Adriana Cuervo

Ashli Aaron

Carson Shilts

Website: <https://sites.comminfo.rutgers.edu/source/>

Topic: SOURCE October 2025 Meeting

Time: Oct 20, 2025 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://rutgers.zoom.us/j/2793569401?pwd=fTabsW7m6ZXxL0Lb2loGrPVoageQEY.1&omn=92259769462>

“Linking Generations” Creating Archives from Chaos with Kayla Doyle

Notes:

- Board & speaker introductions
- Liberty Hall Museum → first and last tenants
 - Final tenant converted the house into a museum
 - Series of gardens in various styles (English, etc.)
 - Outbuildings (wagon shed, carriage house, ice house, etc.)
 - Firehouse museum due to one of the final children to grow up in Liberty Hall & his interest in fire trucks
 - Blue house (not originally on property, but moved to Liberty Hall plot to serve as visitor's center)
- Kayla Doyle intro
 - BA in history & education (Kean University)
 - MA in museum studies
 - Worked at Liberty Hall since 2019, curator of archives since 2025
 - Curating exhibits, preservation, conservation, event planning, etc.
- Overview of collection
 - Letters, business records, raxes, diaries, journals, political papers, pamphlets, scrapbooks, postcards, photos, ledger books, blueprints, etc. from families/residents
- Archive
 - Housed within the Liberty Hall Museum's library
 - Documents housed in plastic bins, many are in plastic sheets for binders, acidic folders, etc. → no consistency
 - Where to begin?
 - Work one container at a time!

- Reassess strategy and process constantly → get outside opinions for how the current system works!
- Create system that best serves institutional needs → prioritize things that may be needed more frequently
- As time goes on, create more detailed system with series and subseries
- Progress
 - Not yet temperature controlled, but off the floor and organized in a way that keeps it safer than it previously was
 - Beginning stages of finding aid
 - Arrangement and description at same time is helpful for consistency and to make best decisions for collection
- Storage
 - Ice house! → originally built for ice, so perfect building to use for temperature control
- Challenges
 - Previous archivist's inexperience → improper storage of materials
 - This also means that Liberty Hall was able to maintain ownership over some materials
 - Funding → state and federal constraints
 - Staff
 - Environmental

Q+A:

1. How does being in the physical space of the estate affect your interpretation of the documents?
 - a. Knowing the history of the property and of the Livingston/Kean families is an advantage. Knowing this history makes it easier to understand the timeline of archival materials and their purpose.

2. How important was the opportunity for career advancement during your path to finding this permanent full-time position?
 - a. I highly recommend getting experience in the actual museum/archival field if it's what you want to do. All of my career experiences advanced my career; I found out about the Parks system job through my Liberty Hall position. Many positions in this field are hired internally, so making connections is paramount to advancing in your career.
3. Why is there a restriction on storing records past 1846?
 - a. 1846 is the year stamps were necessitated to mail letters. There is no restriction on the history that those documents represent, but it is because of stamps.
4. Once the archive is accessible, do you have a specific group/audience in mind who will be using it? At what point are parts of the collection available to be shared to the public?
 - a. Mondays and Wednesdays the archive is open to the public by appointment only. We are in the process of obtaining a high-res scanner, at which point we can begin the process of making resources available digitally.
5. What general advice do you have for people pursuing an archival career?
 - a. Get as much experience as possible. Take whatever internship or job is offered to you. Try related fields (museum curation, etc.) to make connections and develop contacts in different fields and industries. Don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone.