

Named *Best Small Library* by the highly respected publication *Library Journal* in 2016, the challenge the Albert Wisner Public Library librarians faced was that they needed to make their text-based digital archive collection more visual in order to create a compelling experience for their library patrons. A migration to a more modern and efficient digital archive software **solution** was called for to **reinvent the role of the library in the community**. With the selection of MONTAGEdc™, search results are now **'visual eye candy'** that engage their patrons. Now the Albert Wisner Public Library is positioned to engage and meet the needs of their community, including developing new collaborations with local schools, creating education and engagement opportunities not previously available.

Albert Wisner Public Library:

MAKING HISTORY

Shaping the Future, Preserving the Past

Martin Van Buren Horton and His 1910 Searsmobile



AW

M MONTAGE®

 auto-graphics, inc.



albert wisner public library digital collections



Main Street: Warwick

The Albert Wisner Public Library in Warwick, New York, is blessed with a rich collection of photographs, maps and letters long collected by dedicated local historians. Central to the library is its role as the recorder, the memory and the reflection of a rich and proud heritage.

But these records had been relegated to hard drives and back rooms and lists of things to do. The Albert Wisner Public Library lacked the technology to connect the community to its own history.

And WHAT A HISTORY IT IS.

The library was founded in 1927 with a bequest from a Mrs. Annie Wisner, in the name of husband Albert. It would be an unselfish act that would have a great effect on town residents, their children and future generations.

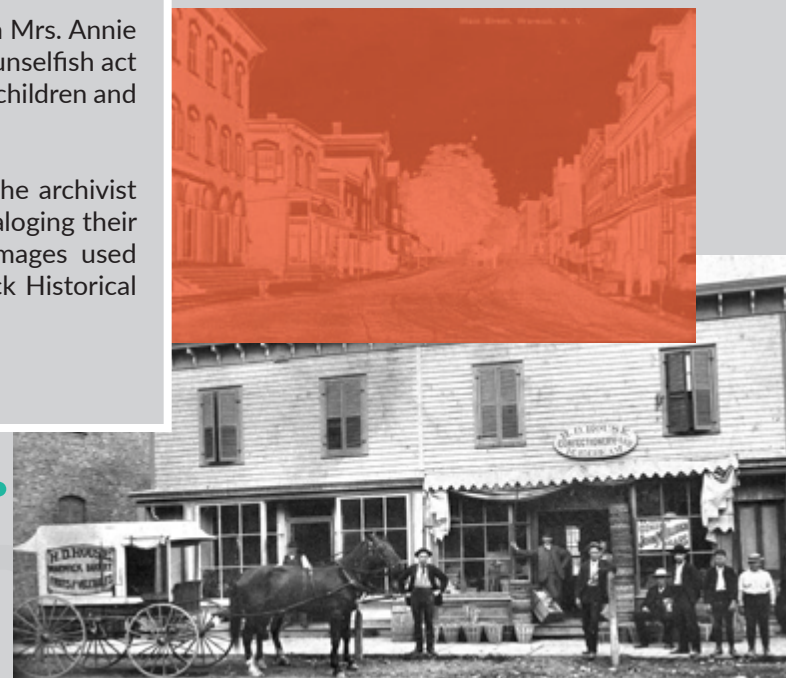
The local history librarian would eventually serve as the archivist for the Warwick Historical Society, responsible for cataloging their holdings. The partnership made sense. The photo images used throughout this document are credited to the Warwick Historical Society.

Library Collection Category

The first part consists of a three-letter code that identifies the collection category to which the object belongs. It is often an abbreviation of the collection name. New collection categories are created by the Registrar for intellectually specific and unique groups of material as needed.



H.D. House Warwick Storefront



HISTORY WOULD BE PRESERVED

But it was a very slow process. The software technology was inefficient. The work landed squarely on the shoulders of a dedicated but small staff.

The library underwent expansions in the '70s and '80s. And in 2009, the town built a new library that would usher in the modern age. A moment in time would turn into a movement.

The new building was not merely an expansion in space but a growth in spirit. The community engaged. Services increased. Needs expanded.

The library—in departments and across services—enjoyed incremental changes. Some rather significant, some measuring barely a wisp.

Such growth would scare many institutions. But the library didn't fear innovation, didn't worry about what would come next or how it might alter the way it would function.

History has proven that change is essential to progress. And no one knows that more than a librarian.

With thousands of text items that filled their antiquated database, a significant migration to a more modern and efficient system was called for.

Asbury Family in the 1950s

MOTHER

AW



NEW SOFTWARE WOULD BE A POWERFUL ENGINE



But where to start?

The new software would be a powerful engine, a driver of discovery and an organizer of treasure.

The technology would reinvent the role of the library, enlarging its footprint and encouraging patron engagement. It would become more relevant, attract new people through its doors and serve a function with a broader purpose.

The library was always more than a town landmark or shelves of books or stacks of historical records. And that couldn't change. That wouldn't change. The fate of the Albert Wisner Public Library is intertwined with the Warwick community. Decisions would have lasting consequences.

When it came to software, Albert Wisner Public Library would require efficiency, ease of use and affordability—and would not sacrifice quality.

The upgrade would define their new direction. It would help brand the library as forward thinking, progressive and innovative.

They would simply blow the doors off the old system.

The software would be driven by visual images—absolute eye candy. Photographs, documents and video would play to local historians, committed patrons and curious library cardholders.

And it had to be cloud-based. Their last software required the loading and storing of all data on servers. Impractical. Inefficient. Risky.

Librarians and staff would embrace the 21st century—in all its digital glory.

All senses would engage.

Icons would drive the user experience. Search could be performed by anyone—from a visiting kindergartener to a book club member to a curious professor from the local college.

The Albert Wisner Public Library would serve all.



Collection Category

The first part consists of a three-letter code that identifies the collection category to which the object belongs. It is often an abbreviation of the collection name. New collection categories are created by the Registrar for intellectually specific and unique groups of material as needed.

Examples:

ART = Individual objects in the Museum's Collections
 GRO = Groups of objects in the Museum's Collections
 ACT = Museum Activities and People
 EXH = Gallery Exhibits and Museum Spaces
 INT = Museum Interpretive Activities
 CRO = Crocker Land Expedition Collection
 LAU = Reginald and Gladys Laubin Collection
 BEN = Lamissa Bangali Research Collection
 GEN = General or Other

Format

The second part identifies the format of the object.

Examples:

BP3 = Black and White Print, 3 x 5
 BP5 = Black and White Print, 5 x 7
 BP8 = Black and White Print, 8 x 10
 BPL = Black and White Print, Large
 BPX = Black and White Print, Oversize
 CP3 = Color Print, 3 X 5
 CP5 = Color Print, 5 x 7
 CP8 = Color Print, 8 x 10
 CPL = Color Print, Large
 CPX = Color Print, Oversize
 CDM = CD
 DIG = Digital File
 DVD = DVD
 GN5 = Glass Negative, 5 x 8
 GN8 = Glass Negative, 8 x 10
 NEG = Negative
 SLI = Slide
 TR3 = Transparency, 3 x 5

THE
 2017
 LAUBEN
 LAUBEN

Format:

The second part identifies the format of the object.





Their old system, designed for academic researchers to archive and share data, was text heavy and weighty, a collection of mazes created by lines and lines of text.

Their single user license didn't permit data storage. The system was stiff, limited and rather bleak. No images, no art—nothing to entice the curious. To linger. To poke around and stay.

So, the search for new software began.

Questions drove answers. Objective data mixed with subjective opinions. Healthy debate was encouraged. Input was welcomed.

Utilizing a spreadsheet, the staff systematically plugged away. Analysis broke down six library marketed digital asset management systems.

Each row, each column, each cell. The grid was completed. The clarity was surprising and the decision—clear.

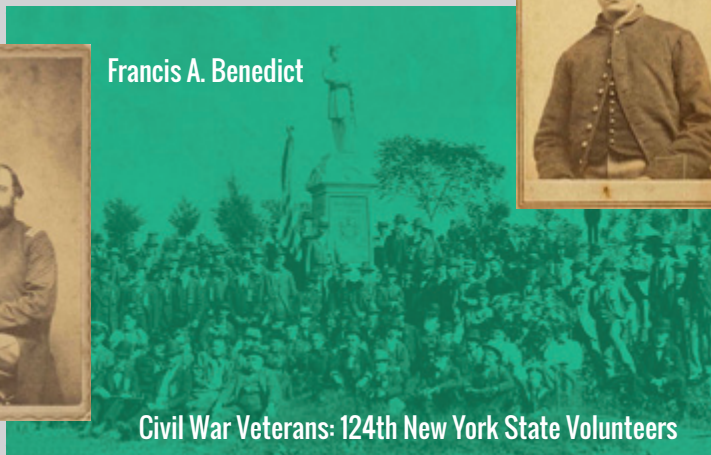
William H. Dill



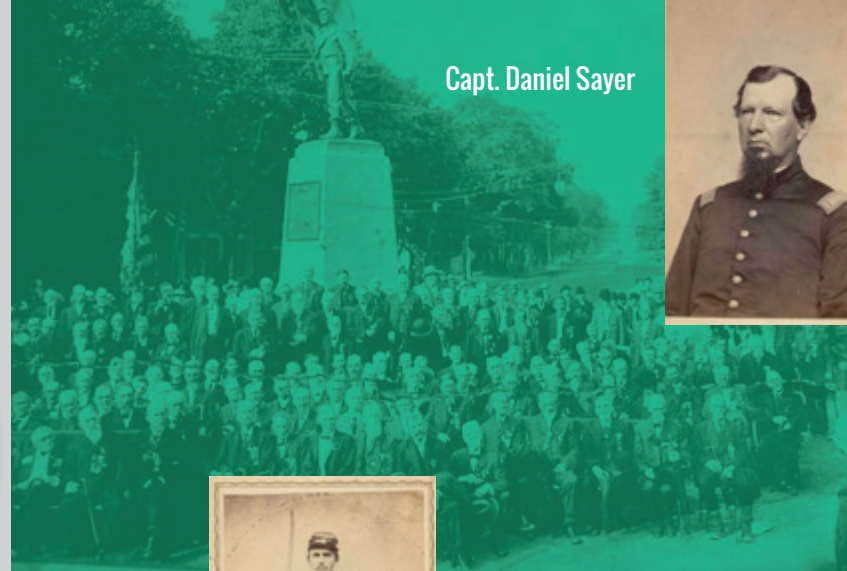
Francis A. Benedict



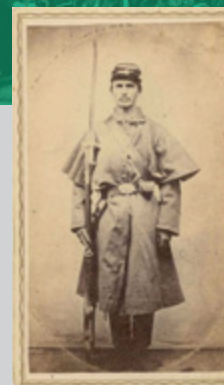
Civil War Veterans: 124th New York State Volunteers



Capt. Daniel Sayer



Capt. James W. Benedict



MONTAGE designed and developed by Auto-Graphics, would be the software of choice.

It was the perfect balance—functional and familiar to patrons and efficient and extensive for librarians and staff.

Patrons would find the experience comparable to how they surfed the web. Their comfort level would limit their learning curve.

Librarians would find standard features that they have come to depend on included in MONTAGE—Dublin Core compatibility, controlled subject vocabulary and Boolean searching—without the cataloging challenges found in their previous software.

MONTAGE would enable library staff to load numerous files into one record. Multiple photos of the same event could now be grouped—critical to a town with a rich historical past and citizens who have worked hard to preserve it.

1919 THE COLONY

One of the community's treasures, the historic hamlet off of Rt. 17A in the Nelson Rd. section was the first African-American resort community in the state of New York.

Founded in 1919 by a group of prominent families from the city, it became a mecca for famous and influential professionals and artists.

The "colony", as it was known, hosted such luminaries as poet Langston Hughes, lyricist Cecil MacPherson and J. Rosamond Johnson, director of London's Grand Opera House. Descendants of its founders still reside here.

Langston Hughes, Poet

The Bronx Bomber: Joe Louis





Time is the most valuable currency for the small staff—of a small library—with a big job.

An “add item” function to create a “child” relationship enabled the library to provide greater detail of a historical event and connect events to provide a more comprehensive picture.

Stories that survived solely on hard drives of staff and memories of patrons could now be shared. Local history, a source of interest and pride to the Warwick community, could now be studied and taught.

Even the old legacy text files, previously unsearchable, were loaded...now easily discovered.

Transferring text items would demand extensive labor—Auto-Graphics was an instrumental part of the effort, proving to be fully invested.

Over a decade of time, the library had amassed a collection of 3,000 items, loaded on the previous platform—including scanned books, pamphlets, photographs, maps and a variety of documents.

A scanned newspaper collection currently on microfilm was also addressed. To date, years 1866-1967 have been properly formatted from microfilm and successfully uploaded. This collection remains separate. MONTAGE will remain as a curated collection.

No longer placing text files into limbo and onto local hard drives, the staff is now adding current files to the MONTAGE software. While they’re still playing catch up with old files, they can stay current with the new. Phew.

It’s a group effort. Residents can share files from old photo albums or family Bibles or boxes tucked away in attics, untouched for years. They will be loaded, tagged and voilà...more pieces of Warwick’s history are now archived.

Before MONTAGE? The staff would hand transcribe full text for uploads—with few exceptions.

And now? Scan a yearbook (for example) as a PDF, run the Optical Character Recognition software and load into MONTAGE in searchable form.

Easy, quick and very, very discoverable.

EASY, QUICK AND VERY, VERY DISCOVERABLE.



The Interior of B&W Raynor Store



000345

LAU.BP8

Sequential Number
The third part of the number is a unique six-digit number
assigned sequentially within a given collection and format.

And now that the Albert Wisner Public Library has had time to enjoy MONTAGE... any standout features?

The front page of the site sets the tone—clean, organized, visually enticing. Patrons often begin with the “most popular or recent” strip. The feature reflects current interest and encourages browsing.

Libraries are in the business of browsing—and this site is built for just that. Search results unveil image-filled pages of graphics that reflect our new brand—modern and user-friendly.

Since MONTAGE has a quick process for ingest and metadata creation—and they, alone, decide which data elements are essential—this platform is sustainable with limited staff resources.

Multiple pathways to reach desired content appease different search behaviors—perhaps the most profound benefit to patrons.

But not every element of any software will be a perfect fit, as is. And the staff at the Albert Wisner Public Library knew that going in. There would be some tweaks. Auto-Graphics listened to their requests and made the necessary adjustments. End of story.

AW

B&W Raynor Store



AW

Collect
identifies the collection category to which
on name. New collection categories are c
lly specific and unique groups of materi

Example

ART = Individual objects in the Museum's Collection
GRO = Groups of objects in the Museum's Collection
ACT = Museum Activities and People
EXH = Gallery Exhibits and Museum
INT = Museum Interpretive A
CRO = Crocker Land Expedition C
LAU = Reginald and Gladys Laubin C
BEN = Lamissa Bangali Research C
GEN = General

The second part identifies the format of th

auto-graphics, inc.



MAKING HISTORY

Shaping the Future, Preserving the Past



albert wisner public library digital collections

M MONTAGE®

Albert Wisner Public Library Digital Collections

Limit your search

Archive

- albert wisner public library (132)

Collection

- photos & artwork (132)

Type

- image (32)
- text (4)
- still image (1)

Topic

- main st. (warwick) (19)
- demolished buildings (10)
- exterior (9)
- civil war veterans (8)
- winter (8)

Year

- 1910 (12)
- 1864 (11)
- 1915 (11)
- 1900 (8)
- 1920 (4)

Creator

- still, edwin t. (6)
- gardner, sue (3)
- raynor, william l. jr. (3)

Search results: Sub Fund = Photographs

1 - 12 Items Of 132 Total

World War I Era Parade and Veterans

Collection: Albert Wisner Public Library - Photos & Artwork - Photographs

Description: Parade, likely post World War I. Appears to be Main St. Warwick.

Date: 1920

Raynor Family Collection

Collection: Albert Wisner Public Library - Photos & Artwork - Photographs

Description: Photos taken by Raynor family.

Raynor's

Collection: Albert Wisner Public Library - Photos & Artwork - Postcards

Description: Raynor's postcards.

Date: 1914

Warwick

Collection: Albert Wisner Public Library - Photos & Artwork - Photographs

Description: Photos of Warwick.

Date: 1920

High St.

Collection: Albert Wisner Public Library - Photos & Artwork - Photographs

Description: Photos of High St.

Date: 1910

Albert Wisner Public Library Digital Collections

Terry Hann Postcard and Photo Collection

ABOUT THIS COLLECTION

Scanned images collected from private collections and internet sources.

RECENT ITEMS

- Aerial View of Warwick Early 1990s
- Warwick Woodlands: NYS Training School for Boys and Girls
- Unidentified Buildings and Places
- Orange County Fair

VIEW ENTIRE COLLECTION

DETAILED ITEM INFORMATION

Archive	Albert Wisner Public Library
Fond	Photos & Artwork
Sub Fond	Postcards
Description Level	Series
Title	Terry Hann Postcard and Photo Collection
Creator	Hann, Terry, Mr.
Subject	Postcards
Description	Scanned images collected from private collections and internet sources.
Rights	Permission granted for use by owner or copyright holder. Further use requires permission of owner where item is not public domain.

auto-graphics, inc.

MAKING HISTORY

Albert Wisner Public Library: Shaping the Future, Preserving the Past

And isn't that the true test?

The implementation process was great, the software a dream. But what has been the most fun is applying the technology. Figuring out new ways to reach out to pockets of patrons with needs that remained unmet with previous software.

Organized by icons, search results are visual eye candy and the ease of drilling down through categories lends itself to projects with local schools and collaborations on a larger scale, including their current partnership with the Library of Congress. Additionally, custom "pop-up" collections and lesson plans have created education and engagement opportunities not previously available.

In 2016, the Albert Wisner Public Library was named Library Journal's *Best Small Library*. The award, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, recognizes the U.S. public library that most effectively demonstrates outstanding service to populations of 25,000 or less.

Libraries situated down quaint country roads and peppered around crowded corners of inner cities are undergoing similar changes—some with fresh mortar and paint, others with heavy shoulders from pressing purpose. The age of learning forges on, shaped by innovative tools used to gratify and attract a diverse and growing base of patrons.

