

# The Chronicle



*The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA*

Fall 2014

Volume 16 Number 2

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To submit articles, news or calendar events to *The Chronicle*, email Sarah Hull, newsletter editor, at [sarah.hull@plfdpl.info](mailto:sarah.hull@plfdpl.info).

Feel free to send images to accompany the text.

**The submission deadline for the Winter issue is January 26, 2014.**

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

By Danny Klein,  
President NJLA History & Preservation Section

As we move further into the year, we're wrapping up our programming proposals for the NJLA Conference, which will take place April 20-22, 2015, at Ocean Place in Long Branch (No more long walks to the exhibit hall!). Many thanks to H&P Vice President Deb Schiff for her work chairing the program committee. I can tell you from experience, it's a tough job and Deb and her team (Sarah Hull, Carolyn Dorsey and Kim Adams) are taking care of business.

Work continues on our New Jersey Local History Census. We're currently compiling a list of public libraries and will soon meet to discuss putting together a questionnaire. We have a newly reconstituted bylaws committee, consisting of Ken Kaufman, Sara Weissman and John Beekman.

We will soon be following the rest of NJLA as we migrate our information from the NJLA wiki to NJLA's Drupal site. All information currently found on the wiki (meeting minutes, officer information, agendas, etc.) will soon be found on the H&P page at the NJLA site (<http://njla.org>).

That's about where we stand right now. As always, I'm interested in hearing your comments, questions and concerns.

Danny Klein

[dklein@jclibrary.org](mailto:dklein@jclibrary.org)

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# DIGITIZED NEW BRUNSWICK HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS

Submitted by Dr. Bob Belvin, Director, and Hsien-min Chen, Head of Reference,

New Brunswick Free Public Library

The New Brunswick Free Public Library's effort to digitize the *New Brunswick Daily Times* and the *Daily Home News* is into its sixth year. To date, 47 years of the newspapers covering from the post-Civil War period through 1918 are available online with free access at <http://newbrunswick.archivalweb.com/reelSelector.php>. Besides a partnership between the library, the Friends of the New Brunswick Free Public Library, and the New Brunswick Historical Society, the project has been made possible by grants from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the New Jersey Historical Commission/Department of State.

Because of the city's role as a hub for a large hinterland in Central New Jersey and as a transportation center, many events were reported in the New Brunswick papers that affected people far beyond the local environs. Furthermore, as the project progresses, it will have a significant impact on research into the Hungarian-American experience considering that by the 1920s, New Brunswick had the highest percentage of people

born in Hungary of any community in the United States. Additionally, many family historians have expressed appreciation of the project since a large number of families passed through New Brunswick during this period. The library receives constant inquiries asking when we will add more years to the database.

Historical newspapers are fundamental tools for genealogy researchers and anyone interested in the history of a region. Although biased by the then current assumptions of ethnicity and gender, no other publication reflects the range of events and includes so many details of people's lives. When the Library launched the database in 2009, 1,000 people used it for 3,000 searches per month.

This digitization project is by far the most heavily used online resource among our electronic research tools. Hsien-min Chen and Kim Adams from the New Brunswick Free Public Library and the New Brunswick Historical Society attended the Monmouth County Archives' *Archives and History Day* on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014 to demonstrate the database.

# THE CHARLES H. DETWILLER, JR. ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS COLLECTION, 1887-2002

By Sarah Hull, Head of Local History, Plainfield Public Library

The Plainfield Public Library is holding an exhibition in honor of New Jersey's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration (NJ350). The library is displaying never-before seen examples from its collection of historical blueprints that date back to 1887. The 70-piece exhibition consists of wall exhibits and display cases on both levels of the library. The featured blueprints represent thirty-five different sets of drawings by 24 architects. The oldest drawing on exhibit is of the Plainfield Golf Club dating from 1896.

The Charles H. Detwiller, Jr. Architectural Drawings Collection contains over 16,000 sets of drawings, documenting over a century of residential and commercial architecture in the greater Plainfield area. This collection of blueprints that document the growth of a suburban community is unique in the United States.

Over 500 architects are represented, including architect George Ernest Robinson, who was a nationally-known architect in firehouse design. Plainfield's Fire Headquarters building, designed by him in 1925, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Other notable architects include Col. Evarts J. Tracy, Jr.; Augustus L. C. Marsh; and Robert L. Robinson, one of the first

African-Americans to be registered as an architect in New Jersey.

This unique collection originated with the enactment of an 1896 Plainfield municipal ordinance requiring the safekeeping of architectural drawings filed in application for building permits. The first building permit in Plainfield was issued on

January 27, 1896, to George W. Moore. By 1969, 40,800 permits had been issued. The City changed its retention requirements in 1970, and the original drawings were moved to the Wardlaw School for storage. After the duCret School of Art took ownership of the building, the drawings had to be moved again. Local architect Charles H. Detwiller, Jr., stored them for several years, until 1982, when he was able to arrange for their transfer to the Plainfield Public Library.

On display are a selection of 35 line drawings and blueprints from the Collection. We were not

able to show many other beautiful, historical examples due to size and space limitations. When possible, we have displayed floor plans along with elevations to present the most complete example of a particular structure. In all cases, the actual prints are on display. We have used archival-quality frames and mats with UV-filtered glass in the frames to offer the most protection possible from light and air pollution.

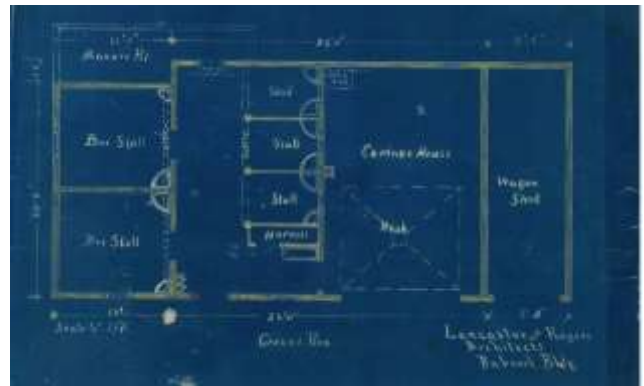


*Four-Square House Elevation,  
Robert L. Robinson, architect, 1905.*



*Ivins House Front Elevation,  
Evarts J. Tracy, Jr. architect, 1897.*

Preservation of the aging documents began by the library in 1998. The processing of the collection is still ongoing. The cost of microfilming, digitization, and cataloging is entirely supported through grant funding and volunteer assistance. Major funders include The Institute for Museum and Library Services; The New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State; the Plainfield Foundation; and the Friends of the Plainfield Public Library.



*Carriage House Ground-Level Plan,  
Lancaster & Rogers, architects, 1897.*

The exhibition opened September 1, 2014 and ran through October, with selections on the main level remaining on display through November. It is free to the public. The Plainfield Public Library is located at 800 Park Avenue. For hours of operation, call 908-757-1111 or check the library's website at [www.plainfieldlibrary.info](http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info).

## SPECIAL HISTORY & PRESERVATION PROGRAMMING

February is Black History Month and March is Women's History Month. Are you planning any special events, exhibits or presentations? Let everyone know about them in the next issue of *The Chronicle*. Feature articles and member updates are due January 26<sup>th</sup>. Email your submissions to [sarah.hull@plfdpl.info](mailto:sarah.hull@plfdpl.info).

*May you have a happy holiday season and a healthy new year!*

## BIG NEWS AT CHESTER LIBRARY

By Debra Schiff, Local History Librarian

At Chester Library, the big news concerns our latest donor and friend, Herman Rademacher. Herman is an 83-year-old lifetime resident of Chester and third-generation plumber. He's also become a bit of a local internet star thanks to a growing cache of oral history videos I've been recording of his Chester memories. Our friendship started as a result of the postcard exhibit I mounted online using digital versions of his son Jack's collection (which he lent to us specifically for that purpose). The exhibit received some local news coverage, and Herman saw the article in the *Observer-Tribune*.

In late September, Herman came to my office with a shopping bag holding two albums of his postcards, a collection of more than 100 Chester-related items. He said, "I saw your exhibit and want to show you what I have." He began telling me interesting stories about the images on the postcards and volunteered to lend us the postcards for digitation and exhibit purposes, as well. I invited him to return so that I could record him on video talking about the cards and the history he knows of Chester. He very excitedly agreed, and we have been meeting on a regular basis to create these bits of history ever since.

I have uploaded a handful of videos to YouTube, and they have been viewed a few hundred times by local Chesterites. My original intent had been to mount another online exhibit of the cards, including videos of Herman's memories of Chester on each page. Because the exhibit was to go up on the web site in early 2015, I hadn't been promoting the videos. Leave it to another of our wonderful donors, Joan Case, who knew from our informal chats and



*Herman Rademacher during his first oral history session at Chester Library*

from Mrs. Rademacher that Herman has been visiting us. She hunted down the videos and posted them to her History of Chester Facebook page. The cat's out of the bag now!

Because Herman enjoyed the sessions so much, he has donated his collection of 1936-1939 *The Mendham-Chester Tribune* newspapers. The papers are the predecessors to today's *Observer-Tribune*, and fill an important gap for Chester Library's newspaper collections. Previously, our newspapers dated to 1955, although these have been digitized and are available on all the Library's computers. Importantly, the new additions are the earliest newspapers of the *Tribune* because it was first published in 1936. As a collecting institution, the Library has paid particular attention to items from the World War II era, so these materials are of even greater importance. I have applied for a Morris County Historical Commission grant to have these papers digitized.

# NEWSPAPER PHOTO ARCHIVES AT ARCHIVAL REPOSITORIES IN NEW JERSEY

Submitted By Gary D. Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

On Tuesday, December 9, from 4 to 6 pm, the Princeton Preservation Group will hold its meeting in the Anne Louise Davis Gallery at Plainfield Public Library. The topic will be, "Newspaper Photo Archives at Archival Repositories in New Jersey." Three custodians of newspaper photograph archives at the Monmouth County Archives, Passaic County Historical Society, and Plainfield Public Library, will address the unique characteristics of their collections and steps taken for preservation and access. The Plainfield Public Library is located at 800 Park Avenue in Plainfield, NJ.

## **The Courier News, Plainfield Public Library Sarah Hull, Speaker**

In February 2009, *The Courier News* donated 67,000 photographs and negatives covering the years from the 1890s-2000s to the Library. The majority of the collection dates from the 1950s into the 2000s. Processing has been ongoing since 2009 and was made possible through the grant funding of two part-time archivists and several volunteers. It took five years to process approximately 32,000 35mm color film negatives. Each frame is housed in an archival sleeve with an image identification slip. Work included the cleaning, labeling, and cataloging of each negative, as well as some digitization. All were added into the library's online collections browser for public access. The project will continue with the photographic prints portion of the collection.



*Santa Arriving by Helicopter, Red Bank,  
December 15, 1979, Monmouth County Archives.*

## **Red Bank Register, Monmouth County Archives Gary D. Saretzky, Speaker**

Between 2004 and 2013, a local historian and two different historical societies donated approximately 25,000 envelopes of black-and-white negatives, color negatives, and color film positives taken by *Red Bank Register* photographers to the Monmouth County Archives. The approximately 250,000 images are all from the period 1970 to 1987, when a former *Register* staff member rescued the materials that were slated for destruction. With the help of volunteers and interns, almost half of the envelopes have been cataloged into a

PastPerfect database. Collection processing, including rehousing into archival sleeves, printing, scanning, and indexing is ongoing.

## **Paterson Evening News, Passaic County Historical Society Boris Von Faust, Speaker**

The Passaic County Historical Society has recently completed an effort to organize, digitize, and catalog the *Paterson Evening News* Photographic Collection. The presentation will concentrate on the procedures and techniques utilized in the digitization, storage, and conservation aspects of the project, as well as the methods involved in the image identification process, and the collection's major themes, subjects, and surprising finds.

## CUE CHARM CITY!

Submitted By Laura M. Poll, Archivist, NJ Caucus Chair, MARAC

“Cue Charm City!” was the fall meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in Baltimore October 16-18, and it had something for everyone. It was held in the Grand Historic Venue, the former Grand Lodge of the Freemasons of Maryland, which was built in 1866 and was their headquarters until 1994. One of the best parts of the conference is catching up with colleagues and friends, and the Salon at the Venue was just the place to gather under the frescoes and vaulted ceiling to catch up and continue discussions during free time. This beautiful building provided an atmosphere for archivists to be inspired!

Thursday was filled with workshops about building donor programs, cata-blogging, processing audio-visual material, and managing digital collections. If none of those struck your fancy, there were plenty of tours: Fort McHenry that defended Baltimore Harbor from the British during the War of 1812; Green Mount Cemetery where Johns Hopkins,

Walter Lord, and John Wilkes Booth are buried; a behind-the-scenes look at the archives of the Walters Art Museum; and a culinary tour of Little Italy. After all that walking, attendees relaxed at a special reception held in the art gallery and showroom of Case[werks], a manufacturer of museum furniture and display cases.

Friday, the big day of the conference, began with acting Maryland State Archivist Timothy D. Baker as the plenary speaker. He spoke about the past and the future direction of the archives after the retirement of its previous archivist of 38 years. He discussed the 200+ million images online and the *Chronicling America* newspaper project of almost 2,000 Maryland titles. The archive is also helping to restore the Old Senate Chamber at the Maryland State House to the time when George Washington resigned his commission.

The luncheon speaker, or rather musician, David Hildebrand, presented a program of music from the War of 1812. He gave a history of the birth of the “Star Spangled Banner” and performed ballads and popular songs on period instruments. Did you know that “Yankee Doodle” originated as a derogatory song sung by the British to mock the unsophisticated Continentals?

The full day of sessions included those on appraising in a born-digital world, uses for social media, the collaboration of MARC and DACS, a forum for new professionals, a



The back of Elijah Jefferson Bond's (1847-1921) headstone, the patentee of the Ouija Board,

roundtable of researchers discussing their experiences using archives, and project management in digital collections, among so many others. It's always a difficult choice to decide which sessions to attend.

Wrapping up the business day was a special town hall meeting held to discuss proposed changes to the MARAC bylaws.

Before Friday came to an end, there was a grand reception at the magnificent George Peabody Library (photo), featuring a five-story atrium surrounded by stacks of the most

wonderfully smelling books! The Library was founded in 1878 as part of the Peabody Institute. The current exhibit, "Lies, Fakes, and Forgeries" featured rare books and manuscripts from the Freeman Collection of



Literary Forgeries. Some of those fakes looked amazingly authentic. Tours of the stacks were also given by a very enthusiastic curator, Paul Espinosa, who definitely loves his work!

The conference wound down on Saturday with the business meeting where the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) was recognized for its 25 years of service. Lisa Mangiafico, Karl Niederer, Fred Pachman and I participated in the morning session "CAPES at 25," where we discussed how other states in

the MARAC region could begin a similar program to assist local organizations to care for their archival collections. We hope that attendees will consider the challenge since CAPES is a great service for small repositories that might not have a professional archivist or librarian on staff.

And just like that, the fall meeting was over! The city of Baltimore itself had plenty to offer during down time. Attendees could walk to the Washington Monument in Mount Vernon or the Inner Harbor. The Enoch Pratt Free Library

and Maryland Historical Society were all nearby and were easily reached by the free Charm City Circulator bus system. And there were plenty of great restaurants and pubs to visit.

The next meeting will be held in

Boston, **March 19-21, 2015**, which is outside the regular MARAC region since it is being held in conjunction with the New England Archivists. For more information about the meeting and MARAC, please go to the website: [www.marac.info](http://www.marac.info). Consider becoming a member. Join the NJ Caucus's Facebook Group page to learn about upcoming events, workshops, and activities of the repositories throughout the state: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/814182725289902/>



## HISTORY & PRESERVATION SECTION MEETING



On **Thursday, November 20, 2014, at 10 am**, we will be meeting at [Chester Public Library, 250 W. Main Street, Chester, NJ](#). After a brief business meeting, we will have a presentation on NJLA's new Drupal web site. As you may already know, NJLA is moving away from its PBWorks wiki to disseminate information and towards its new Drupal web site. This presentation is geared towards those who would use the web site to provide information. It is likely there will not be another meeting until 2015.

### BOOKS ARE THE THING

*This is a column of books about books, or people who love books, or....*

Joe Da Rold, reviewer

#### Calling All Bibliophiles

**THE BOOK THIEF: THE TRUE CRIMES OF DANIEL SPIEGELMAN** by Travis McDade. Over a three-month period, Spiegelman climbed up an abandoned book lift in Columbia University's Butler Library, dismantled a wall, stole books, reassembled the wall, and snuck back down the shaft - and he did this more than a dozen times. The author is curator of rare books at the University of Illinois College of Law, where he teaches a class called "Rare Books, Crime & Punishment." [Not to be confused with the 2007 novel of the same short-title name by Markus Zusak.]

**A COOKBOOK CONSPIRACY: A BIBLIOPHILE MYSTERY** (2013) by Kate Carlisle. Seventh in the series.

Take your mind off red-rot for a while and follow the adventures of book binder Brooklyn Wainwright. In her latest mystery she agrees to repair a handwritten cookbook dated 1774. The rare volume is given to a famous chef, who is soon found dead in the restaurant kitchen, and the book is missing.

**THE BOOKMAN'S TALE** (2013) by Charlie Lovett

Antiquarian bookseller Peter Byerly may have found a first edition of "*Pandosto*," the inspiration for Shakespeare's "*A Winter's Tale*." The novel bounces around in four time periods as Peter gathers facts to know if he has been hoodwinked or if the marginalia in the book was written by the Bard. Archivists will enjoy the details about bookbinding, collecting, and forgery.

## WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

### Member Updates from Across New Jersey

#### **Caldwell Public Library** – submitted by Lynn Robertson-Hotz, Librarian

Early in October, we hosted a *Brunch & Learn* to celebrate Caldwell University's 75th anniversary. A panel of special guests discussed the founding of the "College on the Hill" and reminisced about life in the Caldwells during the late 1930s. Panelists included Sister Anne John O'Loughlin, O.P. (former President of Caldwell College), Alan Delozier (Executive Director of the NJ Catholic Historical Commission) and Caldwell area resident Douglass Denman.

Later in the month we had a children's program to celebrate NJ's 350th anniversary where we read Eileen Cameron's *G is for Garden State* and drew pictures of our favorite things about New Jersey: from Rutgers to Seeing Eye dogs, to dinosaurs.

We launched our *Sharing Our Stories* website, which celebrates Caldwell's rich history by sharing StoryCorps style oral history interviews online. So far, we have partnered with Grover Cleveland Middle School, Marion Manor, Caldwell University and Congregation Agudath Israel Hadassah to share oral history interviews. Website Link: <http://cpllhc.omeka.net/exhibits/show/mm>

From November through the end of this year we are presenting an exhibit in the library and an on online exhibit on *The Monomnock Inn*. By far the largest of the many local hotels that catered to summer visitors at the beginning of the twentieth century, the "Inn on the heights" could accommodate 150 guests. It had its own farm, a nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, formal gardens, a livery stable, garage, and extensive lawns. The exhibits include photographs, brochures, postcards and newspaper articles about the Inn and its time. Website Link: <http://cpllhc.omeka.net/exhibits/show/mm>.

#### **Long Branch Free Public Library** – submitted by Janet Birkhead, Senior Librarian



The Long Branch Free Public Library (LBFPL) had a table at *Archives Day* this year. 56 people stopped by to talk to me, Elsalyn and Tonya Badillo, LBFPL Director. Having a table is a great way to get exposure for your library! Gary Saretsky and his team put together an excellent program. Instead of giving a speech for his keynote, "Music of the Civil War Era," Joseph Becton sang songs from the period, interspersed with informative tidbits about the music of the Civil War period. He was superb and would be a great choice for a program at your library.

On October 17, the Library's fourth annual Champions' Dinner was held at Branches in West Long Branch. The concept of the Champions' Dinner was adapted from the NJLA Library Champions program. This year's honorees (photo on right) were Joe Reale, the president of the Long Branch Historical Association (left), Marjorie Lessner, Linda Clark, Grace Chen, and Maria Maddelena Grandinetti (not shown). The Dinner was organized by Library Associate (and library school student) Kate Angelo, with additional artistic touches provided by Library Assistant Tara Sullivan.



A small card catalog held cards with each attendee's name and table number. Tables were identified with placards made of text cut from photocopies of books. The book theme was continued with books, picture frames, and other objects placed on a small table so that attendees could take photographs of themselves to keep as mementos.

On **November 12**, the Long Branch Free Public Library will host a program on Dorothy Parker, who was born in Long Branch on August 22, 1893. This program is timed to coincide with Parker's induction into the New Jersey Hall of Fame, which will take place the following day. Kevin C. Fitzpatrick, founder of the Dorothy Parker Society, will talk about his book *Dorothy Parker: Complete Broadway, 1919-1923*. A book signing will follow. Attendees are invited to move on to the Mix Lounge at 71 Brighton Avenue after the program and enjoy a cocktail in Parker's memory. The program at the library, which begins at 7 pm, is free to the public. The after-party at the Mix is open to all but is not free.

On **November 19** at 7 pm, the library will offer another author talk and book signing. Linda Barth will discuss her book *A History of Inventing in the Garden State: From Thomas Edison to the Ice Cream Cone*. Elsalyn Palmisano says that Barth is an excellent speaker. It promises to be a fascinating program.

### Medical History Society of New Jersey – submitted by Frederic C. Pachman



Consulting Archivist Elsalyn Palmisano (left) and Frederic C. Pachman AHIP, director of the Altschul Medical Library presented a lecture, *Monmouth Medical: First Hospital at the Jersey Shore*, during the Medical History Society of New Jersey meeting on October 1 at the Nassau Club in Princeton. The talk covered the beginnings of Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch from 1887 through 1958, and featured an exhibit with

historical documents, photographs, and artifacts. Visit the MHSNJ website at <http://www.mhsnj.org/>.

**Millburn Free Public Library** – submitted by Michael Banick, Director

The Millburn Free Public Library has been celebrating the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Jersey all year long with a number of programs focused on New Jersey, its history and its resources. The series opened in the spring with an overview of NJ history by Dr. Maxine Lurie, professor emeritus from Seton Hall University and co-editor of *New Jersey: A History of the Garden State*. The lineup included programs on the Palisades, local food, the Jersey Shore, NJ entertainers, archaeology in our state and a recreation of the radio program “War of the Worlds,” expertly done by Raconteur Radio on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

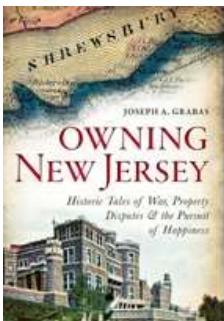
The MFPL will be wrapping up its NJ350 series this month when Raconteur Radio returns to perform *The Wizard of Menlo Park*. This free performance, featuring theatrical lighting, period costumes, extensive sound effects, and vintage commercials, will be held in the Millburn Library auditorium at **2 pm on Saturday, November 22**. In this program, Thomas Alva Edison reflects back upon his long, dynamic career as an inventor, scientist, and businessman, during which he opens an “invention factory” at Menlo Park, perfects the phonograph, and, with a Herculean trial-and-error effort, finally succeeds in inventing a practical electric light. For more information, and to reserve seats, please visit [www.millburnlibrary.org/nj350](http://www.millburnlibrary.org/nj350).

**Monmouth County Archives** – submitted by Gary D. Saretzky, Archivist



Historical interpreter and musician Joe Becton was the featured presenter at Archives and History Day, Monmouth County Library, Manalapan, on October 11. Mr. Becton presented a program on Civil War music. He sang, played guitar and harmonica, and was accompanied by Andre Watts on flute and vocals. The performers received a standing ovation. The event featured 63 organizations with exhibit tables, with total attendance of close to 300. Attendees got a chance to see the exhibit, *The Civil War: New Jersey in Focus*, for which the catalog is available at <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?ID=1678>

**The North Jersey History and Genealogy Center, at the Morristown and Morris Township Public Library** – submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian



In November and December, we will present a two-part series on New Jersey land records and deeds.

*Owning New Jersey: Historic Tales of War, Property Disputes & the Pursuit of Happiness*  
**Sunday, November 16 at 2 pm**  
**Featuring author Joseph Grabas**

New Jersey’s land records and deeds are unlikely sources for a thrilling tale, but bizarre and mysterious tales do abound, like the silk baron’s castle and the

assault against a sixteen-year-old maiden during the throes of the American Revolution. Join land title expert Joseph Grabas as he combs through these all-but-forgotten stories of the pursuit of happiness and property in early New Jersey with an emphasis on Morris County conveyances. Joseph Grabas is a recognized Certified Title Professional and an expert in Land Title Research, having examined over 100,000 land titles in five States and all 21 Counties in New Jersey since 1978.

### *Using Deeds and Other Land Records in Family Research*



**Wednesday, December 3 at 7 pm**

**Presented by James Lewis and Carolyn Dorsey**

Land records are an often-overlooked resource in family research. Whether you are trying to determine your ancestor's residences, find clues about their personal identity and kinship ties, or possibly even trace their descendants, land records can be used to provide evidence - often when no other record can be found. This introductory presentation will focus on using deeds, mortgages, and maps to find and glean information about your family's history.

### **A Recent Conservation Project**



We recently sent this Landis and Alsop hand-rendered 1899 bird's eye view map of Morristown to our conservator. The map has been tremendously useful to patrons looking for information on historical properties. Although this map can be accessed online through the LOC and several map reproduction companies sell photographic copies of it, we made the decision to restore the original. Not only is it ripped and stained, but the map is affixed to a woven backing and is peeling away in large sections. It will be an involved

process for the conservator to clean and re-attach the paper to a new backing, but we'll be happy to finally have a restored copy of the original.

**New Brunswick Public Library** – submitted by Kim Adams, Archival Librarian

The New Brunswick Public Library will be hosting two basic genealogy sessions in November. On **Monday, November 3**, will be an overview and introduction, "Beginning Your Family Research" and **Monday, November 24**, will be a more specialized session, "Researching your African-American and Native American Ancestors." Both sessions will be held in the library's Carl T. Valenti Community Room starting at 6:30 pm, and both are open to everyone without charge.

**Plainfield Public Library** – submitted by Sarah Hull, Head of Local History

The Plainfield Public Library hosted three events in October in honor of American Archives and Family History Months. On October 4, the Daughters of the American Revolution held their meeting in the Anne Louise Gallery. Afterwards, Genealogy Librarian Jane Thoner assisted members with their personal local research. On October 25, our NJ-350 speaker Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps, former President & CEO of the New Jersey Historical Society, delivered a very interesting lecture entitled, *A Prism of Faith: African-Americans & First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, NJ*. Finally, on October 28, 29 and 30, the Library welcomed patrons wanting to attend this year's *National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair*. Each day, patrons could watch the series of live sessions, which we simulcast on a big screen in one of our comfortable meeting rooms. This was the first year we simulcast *The Fair*, but hopefully not the last.

**Somerset County Library System** – submitted by Ken Kaufman, New Jersey Librarian

*A History of Rocky Hill, New Jersey*

Saturday, November 15, 2014 - 3 to 4 pm

Archivist and intern Sean Ferguson of the Rocky Hill Community Group will be presenting a variety of items from the Rocky Hill's extensive archives. If you love local history or would just like to know more about the town and people of Rocky Hill, you will not want to miss this exciting and informative event. Registration is suggested.

Mary Jacobs Memorial Library

64 Washington Street, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

609-924-7073 ext. 4.

*Oil Gate: the Story of Teapot Dome* Presented by Gary Kraidman

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Second only to the Watergate, the infamous 1920s scandal rattled American politics for almost ten years. This oil leasing scheme resulted in Congressional hearings, courtroom trials, and jail sentences. Warren Harding lecturer, Gary Kraidman, will explain the who, what, and why of the scandal.

Somerset County Historical Society

9 Van Veghten Drive, Bridgewater, NJ 08807

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### NOVEMBER— H&P Section Meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>

#### **Mary Jacobs Memorial Library**

November 15 – 3 to 4 pm / *A History of Rocky Hill, New Jersey*

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

November 13 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

November 15 – 10 am to 12 pm / 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Photography Contest Exhibit Grand Opening: *Roofs, Chimneys, and Architectural Details of Plainfield*

#### **Long Branch Free Public Library**

November 12 – 7 pm / *Dorothy Parker: Complete Broadway, 1919-1923* with author Kevin C. Fitzpatrick

November 19 – 7 pm / *A History of Inventing in the Garden State: From Thomas Edison to the Ice Cream Cone* with author Linda Barth

#### **Millburn Free Public Library**

November 22 – 2 pm / *The Wizard of Menlo Park*

#### **New Brunswick Public Library**

November 24 / *Researching your African American and Native American Ancestors*

#### **New Jersey State Library**

November 20 – 12 to 1 pm / *Locating Vital Records (Lunchtime Learning, register online)*

#### **Somerset County Historical Society**

November 15 / *Oil Gate: the Story of Teapot Dome*, presented by Gary Kraidman

### DECEMBER

#### **Nutley Public Library**

December 8 – 7 pm / Monday Night Book Club: *A Table Ensemble, A True Experience of Indian Music*

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

December 11 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

#### **Princeton Preservation Group**

December 9 – 4 to 6 pm / *Newspaper Photo Archives at Archival Repositories in New Jersey*

### JANUARY

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

January 8 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting