

# The Chronicle



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

Fall 2015

Volume 17, Number 2

## **2015-2016 H&P Section Executive Board**

Debra Schiff, President

Carolyn Dorsey, Vice President

Ken Kaufman, Secretary

Danny Klein, Past President

### **Members-At-Large:**

Helen Beckert

Tim Corlis

Paul Martinez

Fernanda Perrone

### **Ex Officio:**

Laura Poll,  
MARAC NJ Caucus

Michele Stricker,  
State Library Liaison

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 4, 2016.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Debra Schiff, Section President

Happy Archives Month! I hope your patrons enjoy all of your activities and opportunities to experience your institution's materials. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, at Chester Library, I'll be giving a workshop on our newly digitized 1930s *The Mendham Chester Tribune* newspapers. Those papers are a treasure trove of small-town news, national comic strips, and depression-era recipes (like banana meatloaf). I use the news stories to update my "This Week in Chester History" feature on the library's home page.

In August, I attended and presented at my first Society of American Archivists meeting in Cleveland. It was an amazing experience. I met colleagues who debated using EAD or not, oral historians who embedded themselves with protest marchers, and professionals who approached outreach in innovative ways, among many others.

I also participated in a focus group by Lyris on professional development. Many members were consultants whose primary focus was technology. It was good to hear their perspectives. The discussion seemed to trend toward more cross-disciplinary education efforts with museums.

Going to conferences is a great way to network and discover projects at other institutions. It was good to connect with professionals who harness their energies on new ways to focus on the patron and bring their collections to where the patrons "live." How are we telling the stories of our collections and their creators? How are we talking about their importance to the community and researchers? Please share your efforts with the Section at [njla-hp@googlegroups.com](mailto:njla-hp@googlegroups.com).

## **IN THIS ISSUE**

President's Letter **page 1**

North Jersey Genealogy Center **page 2**

Medical Center Archives **page 3**

Roger McDonough Award Recipient **page 4**

CAPES Grant for 2016 **page 5**

Archives Week **page 6**

Books Are The Thing **page 7**

Member Updates **page 8-11**

Events Calendar **page 12**

# NORTH JERSEY GENEALOGY CENTER

Submitted by Jeffrey V. Moy, Archivist

The North Jersey History & Genealogy Center has preserved and organized two recent acquisitions: the *Kathryn B. Jackson Papers, 1901-1994* and the *Thomas McClure Peters Diary, 1844-1866*. Finding aids are available online, respectively at: <http://morristownlibrary.org/HCFindingAids/Jackson%20Papers.xml>

<http://morristownlibrary.org/HCFindingAids/Thomas%20McClure%20Peters%20Diaries.xml>

Jackson was a beloved children's author who wrote numerous titles for the Golden Books series; she is perhaps best known for the *Saggy Baggy Elephant* and the *Tawny Scrawny Lion*. A longtime Morristown resident, Jackson

also worked as Senior Editor for Silver Burdett Textbook Company and Scholastic Magazine, and served as President of the Friends of the Morristown and Morris Township Library. Her papers reflect the successful publishing career that she built with husband Byron H. Jackson Jr. and include photographs and ephemera depicting her family life.

Thomas McClure Peters served as Archdeacon of New York and rector of St. Michael's Protestant Episcopal Church in New York, and founded the Sheltering Arms home for children. Born in Boston, he graduated from Yale in 1841 and entered the General Theological Seminary in New York, but postponed his studies for a two-year tour of Europe. While rector at St. Michael's, Peters founded a new church cemetery and was actively involved in charitable

institutions. The first handwritten diary contains observations of Peters' travels in Italy, France, England, and Germany, while the second diary includes daily entries regarding the theological calendar, church services, and personal notes.



Materials from Kathryn B. Jackson Papers, 1901-1994.

For more information please contact the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center at 973-538-3473 or [njhgc@jpfl.org](mailto:njhgc@jpfl.org) or visit us in lower level of the Library.

## MEDICAL CENTER ARCHIVES HELPS WITH HISTORY

Submitted by Frederic C. Pachman, Director, Medical Library

As a gift from hospital trustee Don Summa, a Medical President's Wall was dedicated at Monmouth Medical Center on September 8, 2015. Named in honor of Helen and Don Summa, the installation features photographs of all the medical staff presidents in the hospital's 128 year history.



At the request of the MMC Foundation, archival consultant Elsaly Palmisano and Library Director Fred Pachman assisted with locating photographs of almost all the thirty physicians, including Dr. Edwin Field who served from 1891 – 1922.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOP

There will be a special photo process identification workshop sponsored by the History & Preservation Section and the MARAC NJ Caucus on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. This limited-participant workshop will be held at The Better Image in Milford, New Jersey. Deb Schiff, H&P Section President, will provide details soon via the list serv. Stay tuned!

## RON BECKER RECEIVES AWARD

Used with permission from Gary Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist

The 2015 winner of the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award is Ronald L. Becker. Since 1991, Professor Becker has been Head of Special Collections and University Archives at the Archibald S. Alexander Library, Rutgers University, New Brunswick. A career archivist, he joined Special Collections in 1974 after serving as cataloger and bibliographer for the New Jersey Historical Society. During the past four decades, Becker has had an incredibly productive career and is widely respected and admired in the archives and library communities. To organize and preserve Rutgers' outstanding manuscript collections, he has obtained more than \$4 million in awards from foundations as well as federal and state agencies. He has served on more than a dozen editorial and advisory boards and commissions including the New Jersey State Historical Records Advisory Board and the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, which he currently chairs. Becker has played a leadership role in many professional associations, including a term as President of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and as a founding member of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance. A past editor of the *Mid-Atlantic Archivist* from 1983 to 1992, he has published numerous scholarly papers, including his award-winning article, "Ethics in Providing Access," in the journal *Provenance*. As a model archivist, dedicated to public service, Ronald L. Becker is entirely deserving of the Roger McDonough Librarianship Award.



The award is named for the renowned Roger H. McDonough (1910-2002), New Jersey State Librarian at a time when the New Jersey State Archives was a department in the State Library. While State Librarian from 1947 to 1975, the archival collections at the State Library vastly expanded. Among many other accomplishments, McDonough planned and supervised the construction of the current New Jersey State Library building. Prior to his long service as State Librarian, McDonough was a reference librarian at Rutgers and the City Librarian of New Brunswick. After his retirement, he became the chief lobbyist for the New Jersey Library Association and obtained legislative support for funding New Jersey's libraries, including county libraries.

Beginning in 2002 the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, along with the New Jersey Historical Commission, New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, and the History & Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association, has given this award to a librarian, archivist or manuscript curator for excellence in service to the New Jersey history research community and/or the general public.

Ron received his award during the Plenary Session at Archives and History Day, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, at Monmouth County Library. [Image: Archives Day photo, Ron Becker receiving Roger McDonough Award from Maxine Lurie]

## CAPES GRANT FOR 2016

Submitted by Frederic C. Pachman, CAPES Coordinator

The New Jersey Historical Commission has awarded a \$10,000 grant to the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference to fund the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) in 2016.

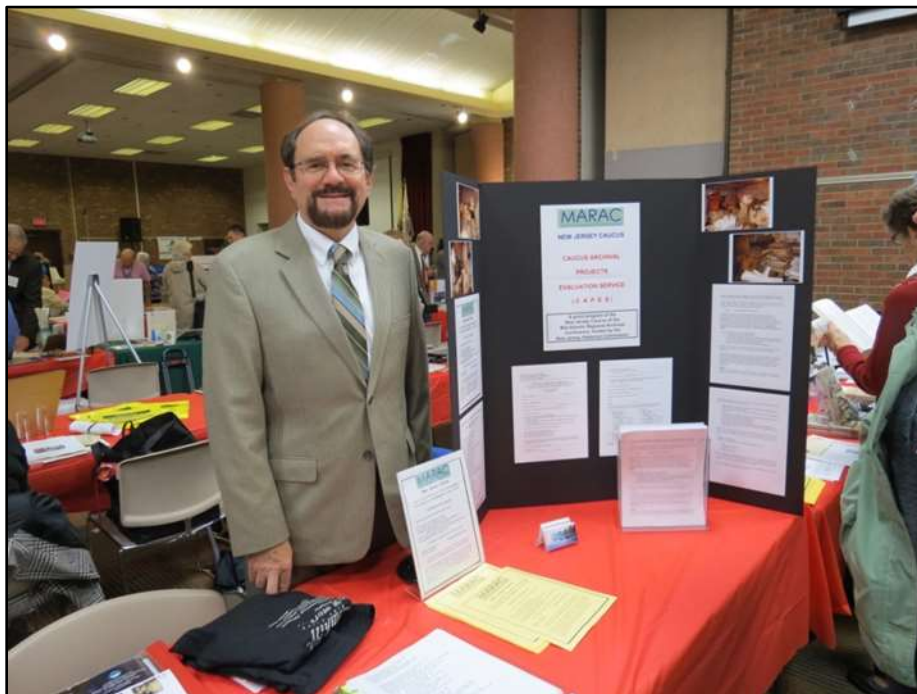
Do you know about CAPES? Has your Library received a CAPES survey and report?

The survey includes reviewing and providing recommendations for improvement in the following areas: physical facility (environmental factors, fire and security protection), storage (shelving and containers), reformatting materials (microfilm/digitization), collection arrangement and description, and policies. Following the site visit, a

detailed report will be provided and can be used to support grant applications.

To be eligible, you must have collections that are open to the public and relate to New Jersey history. Only archival materials (books, papers, maps, photographs, and audio-visual) are surveyed. Government archives are not eligible. More than 475 surveys have been completed for institutions across the Garden State.

For further information, checkout the New Jersey Historical Commission website [http://www.state.nj.us/state/historical/dos\\_his\\_grants.html#capes](http://www.state.nj.us/state/historical/dos_his_grants.html#capes) or you may contact Fred at (732) 923-6646 or [capescoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:capescoordinator@gmail.com).



*Frederic C. Pachman, CAPES Coordinator, at the 2014 Monmouth County Archives and History Day (Photo by Elsaly Palmisano).*

## ARCHIVES WEEK 2015

Used with permission from Gary Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist



"Archives Week is designed for history buffs and preservation enthusiasts who want to get the celebration started before the main event on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>," said Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon. This year's theme is the World War I era from approximately 1910 to 1920. Archives Week will feature special movie screenings and seminars for young and old to have a more in-depth look at our history directly from the experts.

Two fascinating seminars were offered on Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at the Library Headquarters. From 9:30 to 11:45 am, two custodians of newspaper photo archives, Monmouth County Archivist Gary D. Saretzky (*Red Bank Register*) and Archivist and Head of Local History, Special Collections & Genealogy at Plainfield Public Library Sarah Hull (*The Courier-News*), presented a seminar on *Newspaper Photo Archives at Archival repositories in New Jersey*. The seminar addressed the unique characteristics of their collections and steps taken for preservation and access.

From 1 to 2:30 pm, Monmouth County Historical Commissioner and noted Land Title Historian Joe

Grabas gave a seminar entitled *Monmouth Land Holdings at the Turn of the 20th Century*. This seminar explored the deeds, maps and documents that reveal the birth of the 20th century in New Jersey, which witnessed the gradual waning of the Agrarian Society and the explosion of industry and immigration.

In addition, the Library screened two films about the World War I era, the topic of the annual Monmouth County Archives exhibit that opens October 1<sup>st</sup>. "The Water Diviner," about a father searching for his three missing sons after World War I, will be seen on Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm and on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 2 pm, "Lawrence of Arabia: The Battle for the Arab World," a story about a 24-year-old British spy, will be shown.

"Archives Week gives people an opportunity to learn about our history and how to properly preserve it," said Gary D. Saretzky. "It is also a great lead up to our main event on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Archives and History Day, our 21st annual celebration of local history and its documents, organized by the Monmouth County Archives, a division of the County Clerk's Office."

More than sixty local and state history organizations set up displays about topics related to New Jersey history and their organization. Attendees were encouraged to dress in period costume from any era and to donate a history-related prize for the annual History Game.

The complete event also included a History Forum, awards presentations, and a tour of the Monmouth County Archives. [Photo: Christine Giordano Hanlon, left and Gary Saretzky]

## BOOKS ARE THE THING

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

Joe Da Rold, reviewer

### Bookstores & Bibliomaniacs, part 2

**MR. PENUMBRA'S 24-HOUR BOOKSTORE** by Robin Sloan, 2012. Sloan brings mysterious bookstores into the 21st century with this mashup of Brown's *Da Vinci Code* and Zafón's *The Shadow of the Wind*. Penumbra's select customers are attempting to decode the "codex vitae" of famed typographer Aldus Manutius, expecting to find the key to immortality. Contrary to the dust jacket, the magic of Morgenstern's *The Night Circus* is not to be found here, nor the "fairy-tale charm" of Murakami. In focusing on the search for the key, the author loses sight of the magic of the bookstore.

**THE LITTLE PARIS BOOKSHOP** by Nina George, 2015. Monsieur Perdu has taken an old barge named Lulu and turned it into the Literary Apothecary, a world-famous bookstore floating on the Seine. Perdue is an innate bibliotherapist, selling books as holistic remedies. The book follows his adventures, running from a heartbreaking love affair but also in pursuit of the anonymous author of his favorite book. His neighbor Max, a successful young author, joins him as he launches the barge. The novel is at its best when Perdue is diagnosing his readers and during the "road trip" on rivers and canals. It is less interesting when it becomes a romantic novel in the second half, and some of the writing is over-ripe, particularly the diary entries by his ex-lover Manon. As with Sloan's novel, when the author abandons the bookshop (literally), the novel suffers.

**THE STRANGE LIBRARY** by Haruki Murakami, 2002. This short-story, published as a slender art book, is typical Murakami: bizarre, witty, and wonderful. A young boy stops at his public library and tells the old man at the desk he wants to see some books. The old man returns with three non-circulating books and sends him down to the Reading Room. After being led through a labyrinth of corridors by a man in sheep's costume, he is put into a jail cell and chained until he has memorized all three books. Librarians and archivists will love it most of all. *Collection Development Note: The paperback cover is paper-engineered and would not survive being circulated.*

**THE LIBRARY AT MOUNT CHAR** by Scott Hawkins, 2015. A dark fantasy about a mysterious man who adopts orphans and trains them in occult behaviors. It may appeal to diehard fantasy readers, but it will turn off casual readers. Having given up early on, I found no evidence of an actual library, and I was put off by the sadistic storyline and the bizarre behavior of the characters.

## WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

### Member Updates from Across New Jersey

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



On July 15<sup>th</sup>, the Long Branch Free Public Library offered a program on researching the history of your house (photo). Joe Grabas told the audience how to conduct a title search, presented a slide show on some interesting houses in the area, and talked briefly about his new book, *Owning New Jersey*.

During the month of September, the Library exhibited a small portion of the materials on the death of President James A. Garfield that we have in the Local History Room. Garfield died on September 19, 1881. The exhibit consisted of contemporary newspaper accounts of the president's illness and demise, a picture of President Garfield, and a picture of the cottage where he died. Some of the materials came from the *James Durnell Collection*. The most unusual item, a commemorative Garfield plate, however, was not from the Durnell Collection. Librarian Janet Birckhead created a one-page document, written as if it were the front page of a newspaper of that time, consisting of a brief biography of President Garfield and an announcement of the charges made by author Candice Millard that Garfield's doctors caused his death.

**Jefferson Public Library** – submitted by Carol Sime Levin

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm



#### *A WASP Takes Wing*

During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. Living history presenter Carol Simon Levin (photo) tells the story of the amazing Women Airforce Service Pilots through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, became the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war, and the first American woman to fly a jet airplane! More information and registration links at: [tellingherstories.com](http://tellingherstories.com).



**Morristown & Morris Township Public Library** – submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian



The North Jersey History and Genealogy Center (NJH&GC) is collaborating with a local news organization The Morristown Green.com. Articles about interesting and often lesser known historical places in the Morris area: Greystone Hospital; poor little rich girls; and Johnny Harvard, the Guideless Wonder, are among a few of the stories that bring the Morris community's history alive. With excellent collections and rigorous research, these articles, written by NJH&GC staff, highlight the lesser-known people, places and events that enlivened our local communities in years past. [*Photo of Selina Butterworth, ca.1865*]

This is an ongoing collaboration with The Morristown Green.com. We encourage you to use our history library to research any aspect of the Morris area's past. You can read the articles here: <http://morristowngreen.com/author/northjerseyhistoryandgenealogycenter/>.

***Morristown: 1865-2015: Identity, Tradition and Enterprise***

On display from **September 8<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>**. Morristown once comprised territory stretching from Mendham to Chatham until 1865 when, amidst the chaos of the Civil War, mysterious forces acted to separate it from Morris Township. The Morristown & Morris Township Library invites you to explore an exhibit that details the lives of those who came to Morristown seeking wealth, redemption, conflict, or a new beginning.

Utilizing rare and previously unseen archival materials, visitors will witness the development of the Green as the center of commerce, public affairs, and leisure, and how nearby houses of worship focused residents' spiritual and social lives.

Long a center of commerce and trade, early settlers struggled with the limitations of dirt roads until residents developed interstate canals, rail and trolley lines, and sophisticated highway systems. Changes in criminal behavior and law enforcement will be explored, as well as efforts to educate productive upstanding citizens through forward-thinking private and public schools.

In addition to the generations of innovators and immigrants who built Morristown's many businesses and infrastructure, we will take a look at those who celebrated cultural and religious events, grieved over shared disaster and commemorated war dead, and fought to make Morristown a place where everyone could gather in peace.

This exhibit is sponsored by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission and by funding from the Friends of the Library. For more information please contact the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center at 973-538-3473 or njhgc@jpfl.org or visit us in lower level of the library.

**Newark Public Library** – submitted by Tom Ankner, Librarian

Tom is curating an exhibit for Newark's 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. The exhibit, featuring images from the collection of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at the Newark Public Library, will open in January 2016 and remain up all year.

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the Cummings room will host a joint meeting of MARAC-NJ and a local group called Brick City Archivists. The meeting will feature a tour of our collections.

This past May, several photos from our collection were featured in an installment of the national news program CBS News Sunday Morning. The segment profiled author Judy Blume with information about her new adult novel, *In the Unlikely Event*. The novel is set in Elizabeth in the early 1950s, and uses three real-life plane crashes that occurred there as a backdrop. CBS used several still images of the crashes from the *Newark Evening News* photograph archive, which is housed at the Newark Public Library.

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

The Local History Department is making available two virtual genealogy seminars in October.

[\*United States Research Seminar via FamilySearch.org\*](#) is presented by the Family History Library and the Research Specialists of the United States and Canada Reference team at FamilySearch.org. This new, week-long seminar will focus exclusively on U.S. research. The seminar is perfect for beginning and intermediate genealogists interested in learning about U.S. records, FamilySearch resources, and Family History Library collections. We will show the seminars airing on October 13 to 15: 10:30 am to 1 pm (10/13 and 10/14) and 3:30 to 4:30 pm (10/15). Registration is required.

[\*National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair\*](#)

For the second year, we will show these lectures featuring tips and techniques for using Federal records at the National Archives for genealogy research. Lectures are designed for experienced genealogists and novices. Recorded sessions will remain available online after the event. We will show both days of the seminar on October 21 and 22 from 10 am to 3 pm. Registration is required.

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

[\*Native Americans of Central New Jersey\*](#)

Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Hillsborough Library - Program Room B

Who were the Native Americans? How did they celebrate Thanksgiving and what groups lived in your town? James Wade, archaeology archivist and field archaeologist, will help us to understand the Native Americans' significance as a people to the land, and their legacy through indigenous names of places,

rivers, mountains, towns, etc., that are still used by us today. See and touch actual stone artifacts that were found throughout New Jersey, and learn how they were made and used.

### **Somerset County Library System (continued)**

#### *Weekend Journey through the Past in Somerset County*

Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 5 pm

Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 12 am to 4 pm

The Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission, in collaboration with thirty local historical organizations and tourism partners, has designated the weekend of October 10 & 11, 2015 "Weekend Journey through the Past." During this two-day period, thirty (30) of the County's significant historic sites will be open from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, and 12:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. This year's event will feature four (4) "first time" participating sites: The Hageman Farm in Somerset (Franklin Twp.); the Texier House Museum in Watchung; Blawenburg Reformed Church in Blawenburg (Montgomery Twp.); and the Dr. J. Vermeule House in Green Brook. For more information, visit the website at: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/schistoryweekend/>

#### *Ghosthunting New Jersey & New York City*

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 from 7 to 8 pm at the Bound Brook Memorial Library - Finlayson Room A

Based on the investigative stories in both books as part of *America's Haunted Road Trip* series, L'Aura Hladik Hoffman details with sight and sound, in some cases, the history and haunts of New Jersey and The Big Apple. Included for this updated version of this presentation are Charlie Brown's Restaurant, the Hotel Belvidere, the Proprietary House, Snug Harbor, the VanCortlandt Mansion, and the Palace Theater.

Presented by the New Jersey Ghost Hunters Society. Registration Required.

### **Wayne Public Library – submitted by Carol Sime Levin**

#### *A WASP Takes Wing*

Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm

During World War II, more than one thousand women volunteers completed the WASP military pilot training program. Living history presenter Carol Simon Levin tells the story of the amazing Women Airforce Service Pilots through the eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl, the Jersey girl who trained as a WASP, became the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war, and the first American woman to fly a jet airplane! More information and registration links at: [tellingherstories.com](http://tellingherstories.com).

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

### October

#### **Bound Brook Memorial Library**

October 20 – 7 to 8 pm / Ghosthunting New Jersey & New York City

#### **Chester Library**

October 15 / *The Mendham Chester Tribune* newspapers workshop

#### **Hillsborough Library**

October 7 – 7 to 8 pm / *Native Americans of Central New Jersey*

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

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

October 13 to 15 – times vary / United States Research Seminar via FamilySearch (virtual programming)

October 21 & 22 – 10 am to 3 pm / National Archives Virtual Genealogy Fair (virtual programming)

### November

#### **Jefferson Public Library**

November 11 – 12:30 pm / *A WASP Takes Wing*

#### **Newark Public Library – Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center**

November 5 – 4 pm / MARAC-NJ and Brick City Archivists Meeting

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

November 7 – 11 am to 1 pm / The Nubian Cultural Center presents Dr. Valerie Lewis-Mosley's presentation, *My Ancestors, Myself*.

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

#### **Rutgers' Alexander Library**

November 19 & 20 / *The Worlds of William Penn*

Contact The Rutgers British Studies Center for more information: <http://britishstudies.rutgers.edu/>

#### **Wayne Public Library**

November 11 – 7 pm / *A WASP Takes Wing*

### December – Photograph Process ID Workshop on December 1<sup>st</sup> - Details TBA

#### **Plainfield Public Library**

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