

The Chronicle



NEWJERSEY
Library Association

The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

Fall 2016

Volume 18, Number 2

2016-2017 H&P Section Executive Board

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To submit articles, news or
calendar events to *The Chronicle*,
email Sarah Hull, newsletter
editor, at sarah.hull@plfdpl.info.
Please send images
to accompany the text.

**The submission deadline for the
Fall issue is Dec. 30, 2016.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Carolyn Dorsey, Section President

Our section continues to serve its members and the library community at large by adopting and considering new technologies and opportunities for communication, service, and training.

We have planned three continuing education programs for our members and the NJLA community for fall and winter, and are actively planning our proposals for the 2017 Conference.

We look forward to working with the continuing education team at NJLA and our section co-sponsors in a variety of collaborative programming efforts.

It will be a pleasure to honor another individual NJLA member with the **Susan Swartzburg Award** (<http://njlamembers.org/content/susan-swartzburg-award>) in recognition of his or her statewide leadership and dedication to the preservation or interpretation of archival, library, or historical materials at the 2017 conference.

Thanks to my fellow H&P members for being such an excellent team of dedicated and professional individuals. You're a terrific group and it is a pleasure to work with everyone.

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LIME CREST QUARRY: EONS IN THE MAKING, MEN IN THE MINING

Submitted by Nancy Madacsi, Secretary, Sparta Historical Society

Lime Crest Quarry: Eons in the Making, Men in the Mining opened at the Sparta Historical Society's Van Kirk Homestead Museum on Sunday, September 25, 2016. The first major exhibit ever held on this important and historic Sparta quarry will explore the geology, minerals, men, and companies that held an interest in the quarry's development over the past 125 years, including Thomas Edison's involvement.

The Geology

The rock of major interest at the quarry was a limestone that initially formed under ancient shallow seas during the late Precambrian geologic period about 1.2 billion years ago. Through millions of years of heat (almost 1400 degrees Fahrenheit), faulting, and pressure, the limestone was metamorphosed or changed into marble and is geologically referred to as Franklin Marble.

The Sparta location is just one of many exposed parts of the Franklin Marble belt, most of which is buried under our feet. The original upper surface was a raised ridge or crest, thus providing the name LimeCrest. From that ridge, the marble extended down almost 750 feet. The quarry excavation itself is approximately 3000 feet long, 1500 feet wide and 300 feet deep.

The Edison Ore-Milling Company

The Edison Ore-Milling Company operated the iron mines on top of Sparta Mountain that are commonly

referred to as Edison Mines. After ten years, Edison shut down the entire iron mining operation in 1899. He had spent over \$2 million of his own fortune and an additional million from investors thus confirming the opinion of skeptics who referred to this venture as "Edison's Folly." Some of his losses were recouped by the sale of equipment to other mining companies. Even suffering such a loss, his interest in mining remained undaunted.

Portland Cement and the Edison Portland Cement Company



Quarry employees admiring their mascot Miss Lime Crest. A chicken was chosen as a mascot because limestone is added to their feed to harden the eggshells.

Edison formed the Edison Portland Cement Company around the same time as the closure of his Edison Ore-Milling Company on Sparta Mountain. The crushing or pelletizing process he introduced to iron mining resulted in concentrated iron ore sand and scrap rock sand. He sold the scrap sand to cement

manufacturers, who capitalized on the harder, more durable concrete that it produced.

The Edison Portland Cement Company at New Village, NJ

Edison's scientists looked to find stronger formulas and methods of manufacturing Portland cement. Their research led to the construction of the Edison Portland Cement Company's kilns and processing facilities at New Village, NJ, near Phillipsburg in 1901. By 1905, this facility was producing 3,000 barrels of cement per day and the need for raw material with high calcium lime content was growing.



Quarry Workers, ca. 1930s

The Edison Portland Cement Company at Crestmore Quarry, Sparta, NJ

While many assume that Thomas Edison discovered the marble outcrop on the western edge of Sparta, photographs, circa 1895, in the Sparta Historical Society's collections prove otherwise. The outcrop was owned by a Sussex Mills farmer who was mining the exposed marble on a small scale. It became the raw material to make agricultural lime in the owner's as well as many other locally-owned kilns. At the time, this was known as the Crestmore Quarry. This quarry was leased by the Edison Portland Cement Company from 1906 to 1908. Unfortunately, the cost of shipping by railroad from Sparta to the New Village facilities proved too costly.

Back to New Village and New Ideas

While successful, Edison's New Village facilities were still an expensive and risky venture given his precarious financial situation at the time. In 1908, he licensed the use of the facilities as well as some of his cement manufacturing patents to the North American Portland Cement Company. The Edison Portland Cement Company was the fourth largest producer of cement in America by the 1920s.

Thomas Edison never stopped thinking of new uses for his cement. There is the Concrete Mile, a stretch of NJ Route 57 in Stewartsville, NJ, built in 1912. This experiment proved that Portland cement could hold up as a road surface. The original road still exists today. Another idea was the pre-fabricated concrete house. Edison's vision was to create affordable

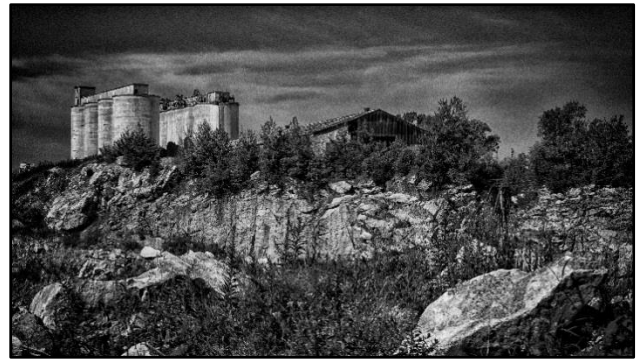
housing by pouring cement into molds in the shape of walls, floors, ceilings and even major fixtures. Within 8 hours, the mold could be removed and the house assembled. The houses were expected to sell for a modest \$1200. Ultimately, Edison didn't follow through with his plan, but it was adopted by others including one Charles Ingersoll, who built a number of pre-cast concrete houses in Union and Phillipsburg, NJ.

While business grew, the Edison Portland Cement Company was barely surviving financially. Then it received a new contract in 1922 for the construction of the original Yankee Stadium. Construction began on May 5, 1922, and was completed in just 284 working days. When the building underwent renovations in 1973, the walls were left untouched, a testament to the hardness and durability of Edison's Portland cement.

Edison's company only lasted a few years after the construction of Yankee Stadium, falling victim to the Great Depression.

Crestmore Quarry and Limestone Products of America

The Crestmore Quarry was abandoned between 1908 and 1919 when it was taken over by Limestone Products Corporation of America, which renamed the quarry and used the trade name of LimeCrest. It was mined almost continually until 2003 when Oldcastle, an Irish construction materials company, bought the operation to reduce global competition and closed it. The pumps were turned off and it was soon filled with water.



Quarry and storage silos, photo by Nancy Madacsi.

Today

Since then, there have been numerous owners and lessees with differing ideas about the future of the land around the quarry and of the quarry itself with an estimated 35 million cubic yards of marble remaining. Since 2012, the quarry has been owned by New Jersey-based Braen Stone Industries, Inc., a major supplier to the construction industry, and the quarry name has changed to Braen Stone of Sparta. After pumping the water out, Braen began mining marble for landscape use and agricultural lime as well as granite/gneiss for construction purposes. Today, the quarry is approximately 3000 feet in length, 1500 feet in width, and 300 feet deep.

The Sparta Historical Society's Van Kirk Homestead Museum is located at 336 Main Street (Rte. 517, use Sparta Middle School driveway), Sparta, NJ. This fall exhibit, sponsored by Braen Stone of Sparta, will open on Sunday, September 25th and will continue to be open every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 1 to 4 pm with a special gallery talk at 2 pm through Sunday, December 11th. For additional information including group tours call (973) 726-0883 or email SpartaHistoricalSocietyNJ@gmail.com

MORRIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Submitted by Sara Weissman, Volunteer, Morris County Historical Society

Acorn Hall

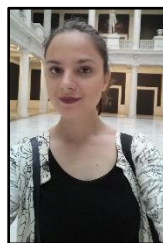
The Morris County Historical Society will display historic election newspapers (1789 to 2008) October 30th through January 29th. The papers, property of Board Trustee Pete Tamburro, illustrate the various campaign promises, electoral obstacles, and political gaffes of over twenty U.S. presidents and their competition. While the highlight of this exhibit is the 1948 “Dewey Defeats Truman” headline of the *Chicago Daily Tribune*, the collection spans Washington’s election to Obama’s 2008 campaign.

The newspapers will be complemented by clothing, political paraphernalia, and cultural artifacts, among them an 1804 signed photograph of Thomas Jefferson; an 1876 dress worn to a party for the inauguration of President Rutherford B. Hayes; and a 1917 telegram sent by President Woodrow Wilson. For hours and fees for the Society museum at Acorn Hall, see <http://www.acornhall.org>.

New Curators in Morris County

The Morris County Historical Society has hired two new curators, who began work in September.

Danielle Pace (Anthropology, Rutgers and Museum



Studies, Seton Hall) came from Tiffany's and the Donald B. Palmer museum in Springfield. Her internships ranged from the Intrepid to the American Museum of Natural History. Danielle Pace is at

collectionismchs@gmail.com

While Danielle oversees collections, **Nicole Rizzuto**

will handle exhibits and research. Nicole, who started interning with the MCHS in 2013, is a History and Culture PhD candidate at Drew and an adjunct history instructor at



New Jersey City University. Nicole Rizzuto can be reached at researchmchs@gmail.com

H&P SECTION MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 5th at noon** at the **Monmouth County Library**. Attendees may wish to attend one or both Archives Week seminars on the history of transportation in New Jersey on the same day, one at 9:30 am and one at 1:00 pm (see **page 9** for details). Additional information available online:

<http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/9/2016%20Archives%20Week%20Program%20online.pdf>

AT THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Tom Ankner, Librarian, Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library

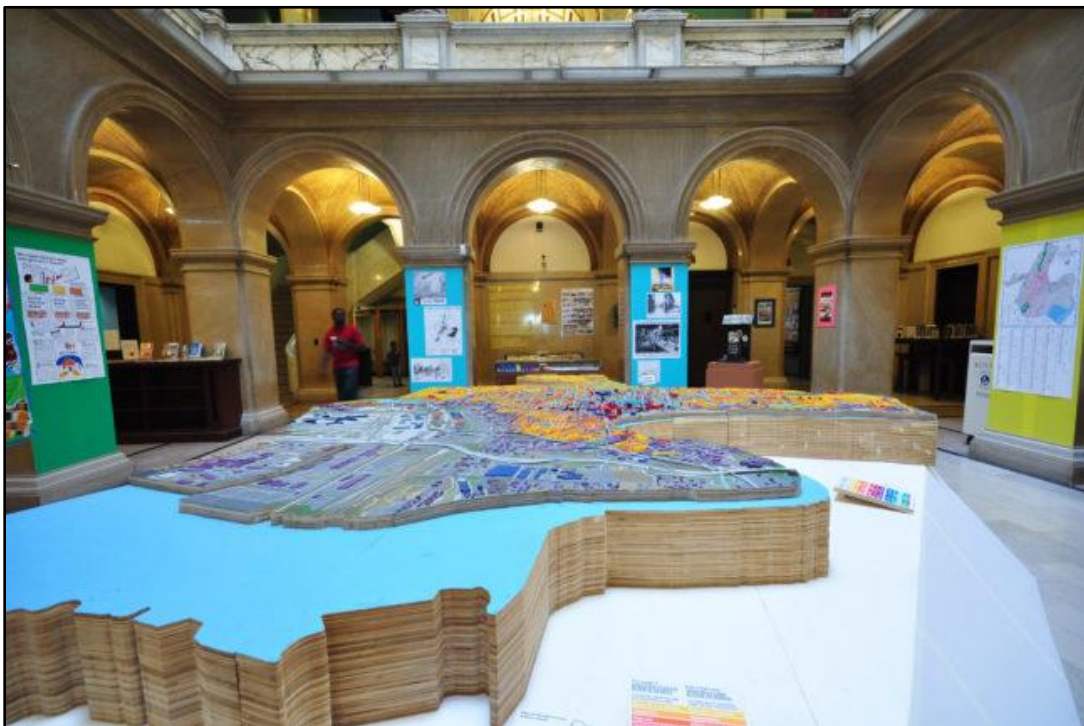
At the Newark Public Library, our year-long celebration of Newark's 350th anniversary continues. Our exhibit *Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal* will remain up until the end of the year. The exhibit incorporates images from the Library's Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center.

The library's 2014 exhibit, *This Is New Jersey*, will be remounted at three federal courthouses over the next few months. Under the sponsorship of the Historical Society of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, the exhibit will spend a month at a courthouse in each of the regions of the state: North, Central, and South. It will be at the Martin Luther King Jr. Courthouse in Newark from September 15th to October 15th, the Clarkson S. Fisher Courthouse in Trenton from October 16th to November 15th, and the U. S. Post Office and Courthouse in Camden from November 16th to December 15th.

This Is New Jersey incorporates the words of the late John T. Cunningham, New Jersey's prolific popular historian, and images from the Newark Public Library's collections. The exhibit honors both the history of the Garden State and the memory of Cunningham, who died in 2012 at age 96. The exhibit was curated by Thomas Ankner, a librarian in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center at the Newark Public Library.

On September 7th, the library ran another installment of its Newark Lifetimes series, *Conversations with Native Newarkers*. The September program featured U.S. District Court Judge Jose Linares and State Senator Teresa Ruiz.

This summer, the Newark Public Library hosted an installation called *Dedicated to Every Block in Newark*, featuring a 14-foot long scale model of the city, with 30,000 individual structures [photo below].



TRI-COUNTY HISTORY FAIR: MIDDLESEX, SOMERSET, UNION COUNTIES

Submitted by Sarah Hull, Head of Local History, Plainfield Public Library

The Plainfield Public Library is excited to announce the Tri-County History Fair for Middlesex, Union, and Somerset Counties. Join colleagues, friends, and neighbors for a fun day of historical discovery, resource sharing, raffles, and more. On **Saturday, October 22nd** from 10 am to 4 pm, over 20 local history organizations, museums, and libraries will be exhibiting and promoting their historical collections on the library's lower level around the fountain. There will be two exhibits on display at this time: *Contemporary Photographs of Plainfield Veterans* by Plainfielder Brian Price and *Plainfield in Pictures*— a selection of images from the library's historical photograph collections.

Two notable authors will present lectures: at 10:30 am Joe Grabas will speak about historical property ownership, and at 2:15 pm, Richard Veit will discuss gravestones and markers. Both programs will focus on the tri-county area. In addition, between lectures there will be a free "Antiques Roadshow" style antique appraisal session provided by Winterhill Antiques of Scotch Plains. Spaces are limited for the appraisal session, so pre-registration is required by October 14th.

Throughout the day, raffles will be drawn including two grand prizes of AncestryDNA testing kits (\$100 value each). Upon entry, each attendee will receive

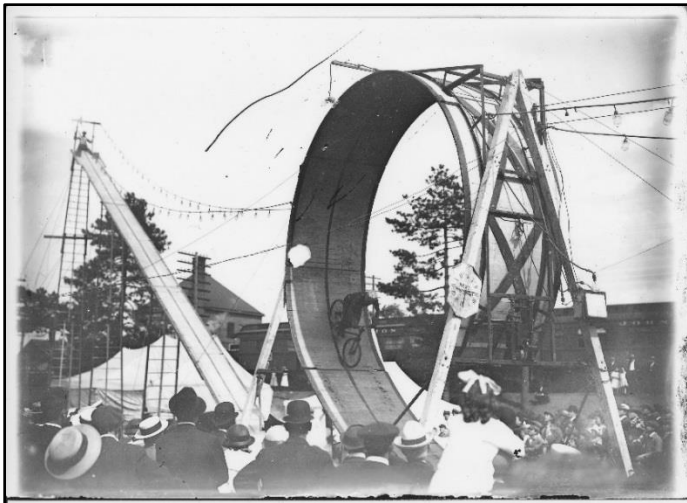
one free raffle ticket. The grand prizes are sponsored by Innovative Document Imaging (IDI) of East Brunswick. Visit the IDI table in room 4 to learn about your family's digital preservation options.

Confirmed exhibitors include the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society – NJ Chapter, Arcadia Publishing (authors TBA), D&R Canal Watch, Elizabeth Public Library Local History & Special Collections, Genealogical Society of New Jersey, Genealogical Society of the West Fields, Green Brook Historical Society, Heritage Trail, Historical Society of Plainfield / Drake House Museum, History Press (authors TBA), League of Historical Societies of New

Jersey, Merchants and Drivers Tavern Museum, Miller-Cory House Museum, Morristown / Morris Township Library, New Brunswick Free Public Library, Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission, Plainfield Public Library Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections, Somerset County Historical Society, South Plainfield Historical Society, Union Township Historical Society /

Caldwell Parsonage, the Van Wyck Brooks Historical District of Plainfield, and more!

All activities will be indoors on the library's lower level and are free to the public. Plainfield Public Library is an ADA-accessible facility, and is located at 800 Park Avenue. Details available online: <http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/Departments/LH/HistoryFair2016.html>



*Bicycle Loop-the-Loop at the
Muhlenberg Hospital Fair, 1905, by Paul R. Collier.*

UPCOMING H&P SECTION PROGRAMS SAVE THE DATES!

These programs are supported by the New Jersey Library Association

Digitization Basics for Newspapers and Photographs (Webinar)

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

1 to 2 pm

Presented by Isaiah Beard, Digital Data Curator at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

This program is designed to help libraries and other institutions manage the issues in selecting, prioritizing, digitizing and making available cultural heritage content, with a focus on photographs and newspapers. Learn about existing practices and standards in digitization, and pragmatic strategies to achieve your organization's digitization goals. There will be a 15-minute question and answer period after the presentation.

<http://njlamembers.org/content/digitization-basics-newspapers-and-photographs%E2%80%9D-webinar>

Sign in to Adobe Connect a few minutes before the program:

The Adobe Connect link is: <http://njla.adobeconnect.com/hp/>

Save your Books! An Intro to Repairing and Preserving Books Paper, and Pamphlets

Wednesday, November 9, 2016

10 am to Noon

Plainfield Public Library

Presented by Kim Avagliano, Monmouth County

<https://njla.org/committees-and-sections/history-preservation-section>

Archival Basics for Librarians

Wednesday, January 11, 2016

Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey

Details to be announced

MONMOUTH COUNTY - ARCHIVES WEEK SEMINARS

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

History of Transportation in New Jersey

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

9:00 – 9:30 am

- Refreshments
- Introductions by Monmouth County Archivist Gary D. Saretzky & Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon

9:30 - 11:45 am

History of Aviation in Monmouth County

Speaker: George Joynton

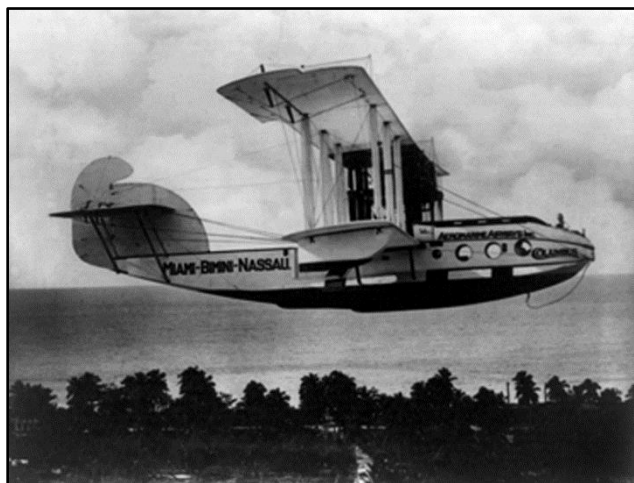


Image Courtesy of the Library of Congress

Historian and genealogist George Joynton's slide lecture features Monmouth County aviation pioneers, early aviation events in Monmouth County, and Monmouth County airports. The presentation includes some information and pictures not included in his recent book, *Early Aviation in Monmouth County, New Jersey*, published by Heritage Books, Inc., Berwyn Heights, Maryland.

George Joynton is the full time Records Analyst at the Monmouth County Archives, where he provides reference services to more than one thousand researchers annually to patrons who visit or email

requests for information on their Monmouth County ancestors, properties, and other topics. Joynton, who has been doing genealogy research since before the Internet and has authored three books on Monmouth County history, was dubbed "The History Detective" on the front cover of Livingmedia.

1:00 – 3:00pm

Panel on the History of Transportation in New Jersey

Speakers: Randall Gabrielan, Monmouth County Historian, & Dr. David Fowler, Rutgers University

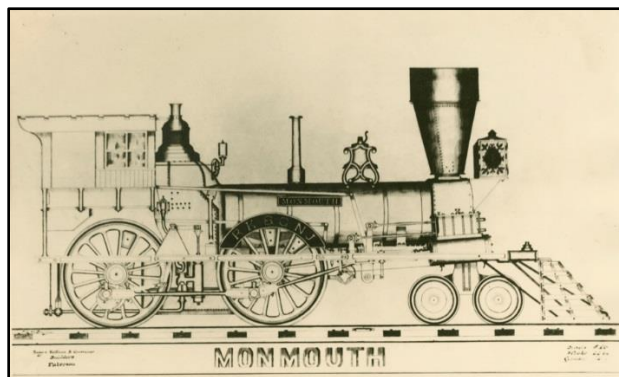


Image Courtesy of the Monmouth County Historical Association

Monmouth County Transportation History – An Overview

Speaker: Randall Gabrielan

Randall Gabrielan's presentation is based on the Archives' annual exhibition opening October 3 and his introductory essay for the catalog. He will review several modes of travel that led to the settlement, and impacted the history of, Monmouth County, and that continue to shape the quality of life of county residents and visitors. In his slide lecture, Gabrielan will discuss both the vehicles and vessels that

transported us and their impact on the history of a number of Monmouth towns.

Randall Gabrielan, after a long stint as an executive in the property-casualty insurance industry, turned an avocation into a second career through long-term leadership of the Middletown Township Historical Society and extensive writing activities. Since 1994, he has published more than forty books about places in five counties in two states, as well as a detailed study of a largely forgotten disaster, Explosion at Morgan. Gabrielan served as executive director of the Monmouth County Historical Commission from 2000 to January 1, 2015, when he was appointed Commissioner. At the Commission, among other activities, he organized the annual self-guided history tour, "A Weekend in Old Monmouth," and produced videos on history themes. Gabrielan, the official Monmouth County Historian, has made significant contributions to the annual exhibits organized by the Monmouth County Archives and conducts the annual History Forum at Archives and History Day.

The Iron Horse in the Garden State, 1812 – 1930

Speaker: Dr. David Fowler

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, railroads had a pervasive presence and an immense social, economic, cultural, and technological influence. Then, as now, most people in New Jersey were within earshot, at least, of the sound of a train. Using a variety of media such as maps, printed works, and graphic images, Dr. David Fowler will discuss the early phases of railroads in New Jersey, as well as their influence on politics, agriculture, labor, technology, suburbanization, resorts, and

immigration. Several New Jersey railroad "firsts" will also be highlighted.

David J. Fowler received his MA and PhD in American history from Rutgers University. In addition to being a consultant and researcher, he works as a Project Historian with Special Collections and University Archives at Rutgers University Libraries, where he edited the late Donald A. Sinclair's Railroads and New Jersey: A Bibliography of Contemporary Publications, 1812–1901. In 2011 he served as guest curator for the exhibition All Aboard! Railroads and New Jersey, 1812–1930, which was mounted in the Special Collections gallery. A digital version of the exhibition is available online at RUCore, Rutgers University's institutional repository. Fowler made significant contributions to the Revolutionary War exhibits of the Monmouth County Archives in 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Additional Information:

- Thursday, October 6, 2016, Seminar: *He Was Everywhere: General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Monmouth*, presented by Dr. David Martin – Visit the Monmouth County Library's Calendar of Events <http://www.eventkeeper.com/code/events.cfm?curOrg=MONCO>
- The Archives Week program, including Archives and History Day on Saturday, October 8, 2016, visit <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/documents/9/2016%20Archives%20Week%20Program%20online.pdf>

MONMOUTH COUNTY - ARCHIVES & HISTORY DAY

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

Events are in the Auditorium in the Lower Gallery except where noted

Time	Room	Event
8:45 to 9:45 am		Morning Refreshments
9 am to 5 pm		Exhibit, Library Gallery and Lobby: <i>History of Transportation in Monmouth County</i>
9 am to 5 pm		New Jersey History Room: Local and State History Reference Books
9 am to 3 pm		Exhibit Tables: Archives and History Organizations <i>Tables open except where noted (*)</i>
9:50 to 10 am*		Color Guard, Pledge of Allegiance. Greetings from Renee B. Swartz, Monmouth County Library Commission
10:15 to 10:50 am	Room 7	Called to Duty, <i>a film produced for Monmouth Battlefield State Park about Civil War recruiting, the 14th NJ Volunteer Infantry, and Camp Vredenburgh.</i>
11:15am to Noon *		<i>Plenary Session:</i> Greetings from Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon Awards Presentations presented by Monmouth County Clerk: *M. Claire French Award: Recipient: Fred Carl, Founder & President, InfoAge *Jane G. Clayton Award: Recipient: Margaret W. Dellinger, Township of Ocean Historical Museum Roger McDonough Librarianship Award: Recipient: (to be announced) Presented by Elsalyn Palmisano, former Director, West Long Branch Public Library, and Archival Consultant for the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance. Award cosponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Library Association History and Preservation Section Barbara Carver Smith Award: Recipient: Gail Hahn. Presented by Linda Wilson, President, Monmouth County Genealogy Society Innovative Archives Award: Recipient: League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, acceptance by Linda Barth. Presented by Laura Poll, Trenton Free Public Library & Chair, MARAC NJ Caucus
Noon		Lunch: Delivered to participants (pre-ordered)
12:10 to 12:55 pm	Room 7	History Forum: <i>Discussion of History of Transportation</i> Conducted by Monmouth County Historian Randall Gabrielan with Featured Speaker Paul W. Schopp. (<i>Attendees may bring lunch to the Forum</i>)

1 to 2 pm*

Featured Speaker: Paul W. Schopp, "The Rusted Tail of The Blue Comet"

Using historic images and post cards, Schopp will discuss the roots of The Blue Comet train and then take everyone for a nostalgic ride along the train's route between Jersey City and Atlantic City. The train changed over to the Central Railroad of New Jersey's Southern Division at Red Bank and passed through a number of towns in Monmouth County along its meteoric run between the Hudson River and the Atlantic Ocean.

2pm *

New Jersey History Game Prize Drawings

2:15 to 2:45 pm

Tour of the Monmouth County Archives (Registration Required)

3 pm

Exhibit tables close

Other Archives Week History Programs at the Monmouth County Library, October 4-6, 2016

Tuesday, October 4, 2 pm: Movie (Transportation-related): *The Finest Hours* (2016) (PG-13).

The Coast Guard makes a daring rescue attempt off the coast of Cape Cod after a pair of oil tankers are destroyed during a blizzard in 1952. 117 minutes. Starring Chris Pine, Casey Affleck, and Ben Foster.

Wednesday, October 5, 9:30-11:45 am: Lecture: George Joynson, Monmouth County Archives, "History of Aviation in Monmouth County." Introduction by Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist

Wednesday, October 5, 1-3 pm: Seminar, Panel on History of Transportation in New Jersey. Speakers: Dr. David Fowler, Rutgers University, and Randall Gabrielan, Monmouth County Historian. Introduction by Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist

Thursday, October 6, 7 pm: Lecture: Dr. David Martin, "'He Was Everywhere' General Anthony Wayne at the Battle of Monmouth"

MORRISTOWN & MORRIS TOWNSHIP LIBRARY THE NORTH JERSEY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER

Submitted by Caroly Dorsey, Librarian

Recent donation

In late August, the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center received a donation of about forty photographs of “Cedar Court”, the country estate of Otto Kahn. The photos were a gift from a patron who acquired them from the family of a realtor who sold the property in the early 1920s.

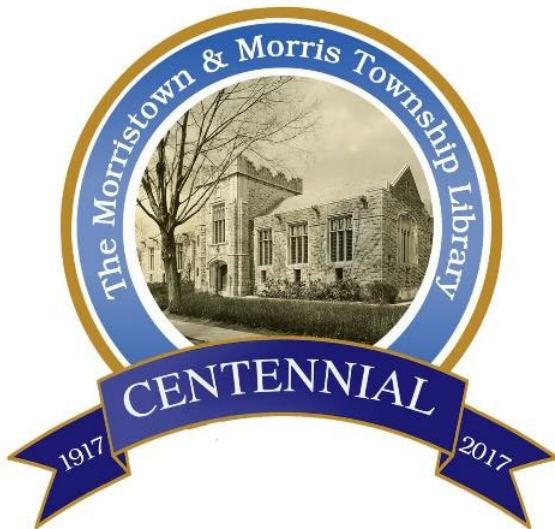
Otto Kahn (1867-1934), was a distinguished New York financier, builder of railroad empires, philanthropist, influential patron of the arts and friend to world leaders, opera stars, and artists.

From 1897 to 1920, Kahn and his family alternated residences between New York City and his country home in Morris Township. “Cedar Court” was designed by the firm Carrère & Hastings, who also

designed "Blairsdon" in Peapack-Gladstone, the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue, and the Frick mansion, (now museum), in New York, among many other notable public, commercial and residential commissions. The images depict exterior views of the resplendent house and gardens from different angles and several focus on specific areas of the building, gardens, and landscaped grounds. The Kahns abandoned the Morris County estate when they moved into their new palatial estate in Long Island. The property was sold to an early diabetes institute that advocated a starvation diet for its patients before the discovery of insulin. The buildings were demolished in 1937, and now are the site of a corporate park.



Events: 1917 Wing Centennial

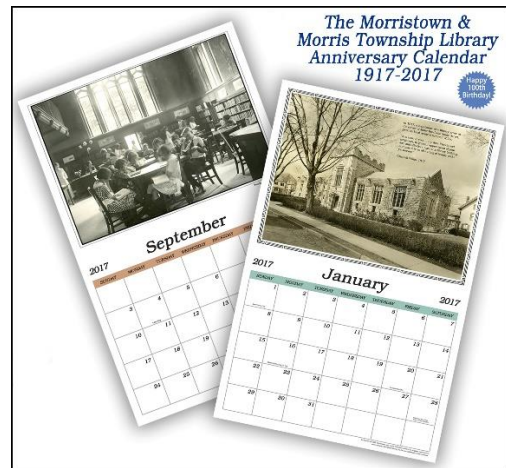


Has it really been 100 Years? In 1916, the cornerstone of a new Library building was laid along Miller Road and South Street, overseen by local philanthropist Grinnell Willis after a disastrous fire that burned the Library & Lyceum just blocks away. Although library service in Morris Township and Morristown actually started right after the Revolutionary War (and continued with the Library and Lyceum throughout the 19th Century), our current “old wing” of the library dates to its grand opening in October of 1917. Join us as we host a whole year of programs – sponsored generously by the Friends of the Library – that are tied into our anniversary.

Now on sale

[Morristown & Morris Township Library Anniversary Calendar](#)

The Morristown & Morris Township Library has created a 2017 anniversary calendar filled with historical images of the library. All proceeds go to fund library programs and services. There is also a trivia contest on the back of the calendar. It makes a great gift!



Articles by NJH&GC archivist Jeffrey Moy

Archivist Jeff Moy is writing a series of articles on the influence of Harper’s Weekly and Thomas Nast for the Morris area’s weekly news source, MorristownGreen.com.

[Pushing the boundaries of the frontier while fighting for the spirit of a nation: Morristown library spotlights Harper’s Weekly](#)

[A Nation at War: Harper’s Weekly reports from the front lines, at the Morristown & Township Library](#)

BOOKS ARE THE THING!

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

Joe Da Rold, reviewer

THE MAXIMUM SECURITY BOOK CLUB by Mikita Brottman, 2016.

On sabbatical from teaching college literature, Brottman starts a book club in a men's prison. The books she selects are an odd mix, starting with Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, which she herself admits is a difficult read. The reader soon gets the feeling she is trying to convert them to "fine literature," and it doesn't work. The men respond better to Burrough's *Junkie* and Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Their reactions to *Lolita* surprise her, where she sees a love story, the men are disgusted by an unrepentant pedophile. Upon meeting some of the convicts after their release, they tell her that reading was just a way for the men to escape the boredom of prison; there has been no carryover into their everyday lives. On the positive side, Brottman makes a strong case for the need to read some books multiple times to understand all of their layers.

THE BAD-ASS LIBRARIANS OF TIMBUKTU: AND THEIR RACE TO SAVE THE WORLD'S MOST PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPTS by Joshua Hammer, 2016.

This look at how one of the world's most important cultural treasures was almost destroyed reads like a thriller. Hammer sets the legacy of Timbuktu's medieval manuscripts against centuries of terrorism from jihadis and terrorists in Mali and North Africa. The invasion of Mali by Morocco in the 16th century caused book-collecting families to hide and bury their manuscripts to keep them from theft and destruction. With the advent of French Colonialism in the 19th century, the prevalence of the French language led to many being unable to read the old languages. The history and culture of these African civilizations was becoming lost, and Africa became the "dark continent." The eventual surfacing of these manuscripts refuted the European scholars who maintained that North Africa had no literacy tradition. The book follows Abdel Kader Haidara, who personally accumulated 16,500 manuscripts from tribal families, creating two of the largest private and public collections of Arabic handwritten books in the world. Archivists will recognize the dilemma of those who were fearful of parting with manuscripts that had been safeguarded by their families for centuries. Hammer's detailed description of the rise of present-day terrorism is fascinating, though it sometimes overshadows the history of the manuscripts. Readers may opt to skim chapters to get back to the main focus of the book.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Member Updates from Across New Jersey

Morristown and Morris Township Library – submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian

Upcoming Program:

100 Years of Newspapers: 'Dewey Defeats Truman' and other Historic Newspapers of the American Presidency: presented by Pete Tamburro

Thursday October 13th at 7 pm

Historian and Morris County Historical Society board member Pete Tamburro will discuss his personal collection of original newspapers highlighting many famous political events.

Certainly newspapers have played a large role in hindering and helping candidates reach the highest office, but they have also acted as an historical record of the times as well as an opinionated measuring stick of everyone who graced the Oval Office. His collection ranges from Washington's presidency through Barack Obama and features the first appearances of the Elephant and Donkey used for the two major political parties (drawn by Thomas Nast, for whom the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center has a collection) as well as reports of the assassination of President Kennedy and the deaths of Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt and others.

Mr. Peter J. Tamburro, Jr. recently joined the Morris County Historical Society's Board of Trustees. A life-long resident of Morris County, a distinguished educator and author, Mr. Tamburro taught U.S. History in Morris County for 32 years. He was named New Jersey's Outstanding Teacher of History in 1990, was awarded the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Fellowship in World History at Princeton University in 1991, and held a Council for Basic Education Fellowship in World History in 1993.

He served on historic commissions in East Hanover and Long Valley, and now lectures throughout New Jersey on local history, the U.S. Constitution, and public policy matters.

The library is collaborating with The Morris County Historical Society in recognition of this presidential election year to present this program.

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

The Local History Department is offering a wide range of programs over the next few months. On October 12th at 10 am, there will be Find My Past database workshop. *Findmypast* provides access to an ever-expanding collection of over two billion historical records from around the world, including US censuses from as far back as 1790, the largest collection of Irish records anywhere online, and US military records from the Revolutionary War up to World War II. On October 25th at 7 pm, join us for *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and the Hessians*. Civil War Historical Reenactor and Lecturer, Michael Jesberger, will present a program on one of America's oldest short stories based on real accounts that took place in the Hudson Valley of New York during the American Revolution. For the third year, on October 26-27, the library will simulcast NARA's Virtual Genealogy Fair, starting at 10 am each day.

Plainfield Public Library *continued*

November will bring the reception and grand opening of the library's 11th Annual Photography Competition on November 12th from 10 am to noon. A workshop on using *Newspapers.com* database will be held on November 16th at 10 am. On November 17th at 7 pm, the library presents, "*Gotcha!": Snapshots that Made History*. In this lecture photojournalist Jim DelGiudice will look at some of the accidentally historic photographs that not only changed history, but have become the icons by which we remember great events.

Ridgewood Public Library – submitted by Sarah Kiefer, Local History Librarian

The following events are scheduled for the Bolger Heritage Center, the local history & genealogy center at the library:

Using familysearch.org

Saturday, October 1st at 10:30 am

Learn about the wealth of records and research help available free on familysearch.org. In addition to millions of digitized records, discover full-text books, hundreds of research videos, and thousands of research articles to help you in your research. Learn how to search more effectively and how to use the many other features on the site. Registration and fee required.

Special Storytellers @RPL Event with Elena Gorokhova

Monday, October 3rd at 7 pm

Join us for a live oral history interview of local author Elena Gorokhova. Listen to her story of her travels that took her from Leningrad to Ridgewood. Listen and learn about the books she has written on her story.

Notable Restaurants & Their Historic Origins

Saturday, October 8th at 2 pm

The program focuses on many restaurants, mostly in New Jersey but several in neighboring states, that began life as long ago as the 1700s.

Family Fun/Local History on the Pilgrims

Saturday, November 19th at 2 pm

This is the story of how the pilgrims established a 50-year relationship with the Native Americans who helped the pilgrims survive and prosper. The presentation is performed in period costume with artifacts representing the period.

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

COUNTYWIDE IN SOMERSET COUNTY *Weekend Journey Through the Past*

Don't miss Somerset County's 11th Annual Weekend Journey through the Past, an opportunity to step into and experience the past. Up to thirty (30) historic sites countywide will be open free to the public of all ages on **Saturday, October 8th from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, October 9th from noon to 4 pm**, so mark your calendar now! Experience the sights and sounds of the 18th century with costumed re-enactors, house tours and activities; living-history re-enactors; open-hearth cooking; colonial tavern life and games; interactive activities, such as signing an actual enlistment document with quill and ink; special collections and exhibitions; traditional blacksmithing; 19th-century firefighting wagons and apparatus; antiques sales; craftspeople demonstrating period decorative crafts; live theatre and period music performances; genealogical resources; participatory colonial dance instruction; daily chores of 18th-century life; military history; demonstrations; local history video, and so much more.

Warren G. Harding and the 1920 Republican Convention & Presidential Election

Thursday, October 27th from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at Manville Public Library

Presented by local historian and author, Gary Kraidman. There were twelve potential candidates vying for the Republican nomination at the time of the convention and through a series of political wranglings and compromises, a dark horse candidate, Senator Warren G. Harding, emerged as the victor.

Battleship NJ: The Story of the World's Greatest Battleship

Tuesday, November 1st from 7 to 8:30 pm at Manville Library

Thursday, November 17th from 7 to 8 pm at Hillsborough Library

Saturday, December 3rd from 2 to 3 pm at Bridgewater Library

This virtual tour presentation will include images of the ship, illustrating its long history from birth at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard to current role on the Camden Waterfront as a floating museum. The guide will weave together the story of this illustrious Battleship while sharing facts, historical anecdotes, and the tales of men who served on board during WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and later in Beirut and the Persian Gulf.

The History of Presidential Elections & New Jersey

Thursday, November 3rd from 7 to 8:30 pm at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library

Everyone is saying, this year's election is like no other. The truth is, they are all different -- different slogans, different tactics, different issues. We quickly forget how it used to be. Brian Armstrong, President of South River Historical Society, will remind us just how different they are! Focusing on 1912 to the present, Mr. Armstrong will discuss the issues, candidates, campaigns, and results. His extensive memorabilia collection will bring the presentation to life.

Somerset County Library System continued

Voices and Stories of the Attack on Pearl Harbor

Tuesday, December 6th from 7 to 8:30 pm at Warren Township Library

December 7, 1941, is "a date which will live in infamy." Oral histories from those who witnessed, survived and remember the attack on Pearl Harbor bring to life this event for today's students, scholars, and the general public. Molly Graham, Assistant Director of The Rutgers Oral History Archives, presents a discussion on this event, told through the voices of those who experienced it.

The NJ Home Front during WWII

Wednesday, December 7th from 7 to 8 pm at Hillsborough Library

The attack on Pearl Harbor 75 years ago meant an increased war effort on the home front. Selling war bonds, planting victory gardens, real-life 'Rosie the Riveters' and more happened right here in New Jersey. Explore the vital roles played by those left at home with historian Patricia Chappine, author of *New Jersey Women in World War II*.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

October 2016 * 10/5 H&P Section Meeting at the Monmouth County Library (Noon to 12:55 pm)*

* 10/26 H&P Section Webinar - *Digitization Basics for Newspapers and Photographs* *

Nutley Public Library

October 3 – 7 pm / Monday Night Book Club: Author, Michael Laser

Manville Public Library

October 27 – 6:30 to 7:30 pm / *Warren G. Harding and the 1920 Republican Convention & Presidential Election*

Monmouth County Library

October 4 - 6 / Archives Week History Programs

October 8 – 8:45 am to 3 pm / Archives and History Day

Morristown & Morris Township Library

October 13 – 7 pm / *100 Years of Newspapers: 'Dewey Defeats Truman' and other Historic Newspapers of the American Presidency*

Plainfield Public Library

October 12 – 10 to 11 am / *Findmypast* database workshop

October 13 – 10:30 am to noon / Memoir Writing Club

October 22 – 10 am to 4 pm / Tri-County History Fair: Middlesex, Somerset, Union

October 25 – 7 to 8 pm / *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow and the Hessians* with Michael Jesberger

October 26 & 28 – 10 am / *NARA Virtual Genealogy Fair* simulcast

Ridgewood Public Library

October 1 – 10:30 am / *Using familysearch.org*

October 3 – 7 pm / *Special Storytellers @RPL Event with Elena Gorokhova*

October 8 – 2 pm / *Notable Restaurants & Their Historic Origins*

Somerset County

October 8 & 9 / *Weekend Journey through the Past*

November 2016 *11/9 NJLA H&P Section Workshop *Save Your Books!* at Plainfield Public Library

Hillsborough Library

November 17 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *Battleship NJ: The Story of the World's Greatest Battleship*

Manville Public Library

November 1 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *Battleship NJ: The Story of the World's Greatest Battleship*

Mary Jacobs Memorial Library

November 3 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *The History of Presidential Elections & New Jersey*

Plainfield Public Library

November 9 – 10 am to noon / H&P Section – *Save Your Books!* workshop

November 10 – 10:30 am to noon / Memoir Writing Club

November 16 – 10 to 11:30 am / *Newspapers.com* database workshop

November 20 – 10 am to noon / Opening Reception 11th Annual Photography Contest Exhibition

November 17 – 7 to 8 pm / *"Gotcha!": Snapshots that made history* with Jim DelGiudice

Ridgewood Public Library

November 19 – 2 pm / *Family Fun/Local History on the Pilgrims*

December 2016

Bridgewater Library

December 3 – 2 to 3 pm / *Battleship NJ: The Story of the World's Greatest Battleship*

Hillsborough Library

December 7 – 7 to 8 pm / *The NJ Home Front during WWII*

Warren Township Library

December 6 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *Voices and Stories of the Attack on Pearl Harbor*

Plainfield Public Library

December 8 – 10:30 am to noon / Memoir Writing Club