

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

Spring 2015

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2014-2015 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.

Feel free to send images to accompany the text.

The submission deadline for the Summer issue is July 27, 2015.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By Danny Klein, Section President

I'd like to start by thanking all of the Section members who attended the NJLA Conference in Long Branch last month and helped make it a great success. Special thanks to Section VP and Program Chair Deb Schiff and her team of Carolyn Dorsey, Sarah Hull, and Kim Adams for putting together a great lineup of programs for section members to attend on April 21st.

As my year winds down, I'm able to look back on all our great programs, especially the *Meeting of the Minds* joint meeting with the MARAC NJ Caucus, the Princeton Preservation Group, and Rutgers SOURCE student organization to hear Linda Langscheid of Rutgers SCC and Kate Cordes of NYPL talk about their digitized map collections. State Archivist Joe Klett also spoke about the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response, a statewide organization with members from cultural repositories dedicated to emergency planning for their collections. All in all, it was a successful meeting and program.

We have also had a successful changeover from the old NJLA Wiki to the new member site (www.njlamembers.org). All information about upcoming H&P events can be found there. In addition, all our files, from minutes to newsletters, have been moved over and are easy to find.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to the H&P Executive Board for serving this past year - Deb Schiff, Ken Kaufman, Jessica Myers, Sarah Hull, Laura Poll, Kim Adams and Gary Saretzky, and to those serving on our committees. I look forward to continuing to work with you all next year as Past President.

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter **page 1**

NJLA Conference Wrap Up **page 2**

Author's Program **page 3**

Swartzburg Award Winner **page 4**

The Revolution Continues **page 5-6**

Preservation Day **page 7**

Somerset County Historical Society **page 8**

Plainfield Celebrates Women's History **page 9**

Innovative Archives **page 10**

Book Reviews **page 10**

What Else is New? **page 11-14**

Events Calendar **page 15**

HISTORY & PRESERVATION SECTION NJLA CONFERENCE SESSIONS WRAP UP

Submitted By Deb Schiff, Vice President, NJLA History & Preservation Section

The History & Preservation Section's offerings at the NJLA annual conference all took place on April 21, 2015, and were very well attended. Thanks to the very hard work and persistence of the Program Committee - E. Kim Adams, Carolyn Dorsey, Sarah Hull, and yours truly - conference attendees were treated to a lively and educational slate of sessions. The feedback I received on all of our sessions was enthusiastically positive, especially from attendees who were outside of our section or who typically do not attend H&P sessions.



We kicked off the day with the standing-room-only *Genealogy—First Steps, Tips, and Tricks for Newbies* session presented by Jane Thoner of Plainfield Public Library (photo). Jane focused on using Family Search, which is easily available to all and does not require a patron to be present in the library to research his/her family. Attendees found Jane to be fun, and her material to be accessible and useful.

Next, we were entertained and inspired by the author's program, *Electrified, Edible, and Emboldened: NJ History Authors Discuss Thomas Edison, NJ Diners, and the Civil War's "Brunswick Boys."* The session featured authors Leonard

DeGraaf, Archivist at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park; Joanne Rjoppi, County Clerk of Union County and Trustee of the Union County Historical Society; and Michael Gabriele of the Nutley Historical Society and Clifton Arts Center. *Please see session moderator Carolyn Dorsey's piece below for more details.*

After lunch, we learned about Innovations in *Attracting Students to Archives and Special Collections*. Susan Falciani of Muhlenberg College introduced Jacqueline Haun of the Lawrenceville School and Andrea Reidell of NARA (Philadelphia). Andrea's work reaching out to local schools to engage students in seeking their family histories using the materials in the NARA facility was fascinating.

Jacqi's presentation on how she works with students in the school archives, especially the development of the Heely Scholars program, also showed novel ways in which archivists and librarians can work with History teachers to improve information literacy.

Finally, the last program of the day was *Keys to Successful Grant Writing*. Our own Sarah Hull presented and moderated the session, focusing on history and preservation grants, as well as useful general tips. Doug Baldwin, Piscataway Public Library, of the Emerging Technologies Section pinpointed ways to raise funds and gain grants for technology-based projects (makerspaces). Heidi Cramer, Newark Public Library, of the Urban Libraries Section used her time to talk about larger projects and how to ask for much larger grants.

[Photograph courtesy of Deb Schiff]

AUTHOR'S PROGRAM AT NJLA CONFERENCE

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, H&P Section Programming Committee



The Author's Program on Tuesday, April 21st, 11:30 am, was sponsored by the History and Preservation Section. Since its inception, the History Author's Panel program at NJLA's yearly conference has brought together New Jersey authors who share a common love for New Jersey's fascinating history. Past panel authors have included archivists, professors, journalists, librarians, historians, new authors, and editors. This year's History Author's Panel, *Electrified, Edible, and Emboldened: New Jersey History Authors discuss Thomas Edison, New Jersey Diners, and the Civil War's "Brunswick Boys"* was well attended. The authors spoke about their subjects and writing experiences, and answered many questions from the audience. They kindly stayed to talk a little more with attendees and sign books.

This year's authors:

Leonard DeGraaf, Archivist, Thomas Edison National Historical Park

Joanne Rajoppi, County Clerk of Union County, Trustee of the Union County Historical Society

Michael Gabriele, Nutley Historical Society, Executive board, Clifton Arts Center Advisory Board

Moderator: Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian, Morristown & Morris Township Public Library

[Photo: *from left to right*, Carolyn Dorsey, Leonard DeGraaf, Joanne Rajoppi, Michael Gabriele, and Debra Schiff, (Vice President, History and Preservation Section)]

DEBORAH MERCER HONORED WITH NJLA SUSAN G. SWARTZBURG AWARD

Submitted By Jessica Myers, Former President, NJLA History & Preservation Section



Deborah Mercer, New Jersey Collections Librarian at the New Jersey State Library, has won the Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award for 2015. Deborah manages the NJ State government publications, Jerseyana, maps and atlases, and the rare book collections. In addition, she is responsible for all preservation and conservation activities in these areas. These include the digitization of historical documents of significance to New Jersey, the identification of thousands of fragile documents, rare books and Jerseyana and the placement of these in archival storage. In addition, she encapsulated NJ maps and atlases and conserved oversized rolled maps.

Deborah is committed to preserving NJ documents to ensure their availability for future researchers, and is tireless in her pursuit of this goal. She leads the NJ team by example. She shares her knowledge with colleagues and people throughout the state. She holds training sessions for staff, Rutgers SCILS Preservation & Documents classes, has led

presentations on NJ Digital Highway, and prepares for digitization projects.

Under her leadership, the New Jersey State Library Digital Collections repository was born. She headed the team responsible for planning and implementing the repository.

She creates opportunities to make history more accessible to others, through her work in preservation as well as through programs, exhibitions and participation in statewide organizations. The Humanities Festival Grant enabled the NJ State Library to sponsor a program on "Lincoln, Emancipation and Slavery," to form the 350th Anniversary Commission, and to launch a series of displays including the "Theft of the NJ Treasury," "New Jersey's First Constitution," and "Voting by African Americans and Women."

Deborah advocates for New Jersey libraries by speaking with the Congressional delegation about issues facing libraries today and presenting at ALA Legislative Days.

In addition to being the NJ Collections Librarian at NJSL, she is on the NJ Documents Association Executive Board. She chairs NJ Documents Interest Group, NJ Library Association, NJ Digital Highway, Mapping NJ Advisory Board, and the NJ Historical Commission, to name a few.

[Photo: Deborah Mercer poses with the award with Danny Klein, H&P Section President, courtesy of Deborah Mercer]

THE REVOLUTION CONTINUES

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

The Revolution Continues was the theme of the joint meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and New England Archivists in Boston March 19-21. Held at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, the meeting was an opportunity to meet colleagues from New England and engage with them on our collective experiences. Over 600 archivists and librarians attended. The two full days of sessions were collaborations between MARAC and NEA members, and there were many chances to interact. Not only was the conference out of the MARAC region and a little earlier than usual, it was slightly different from what most of us were accustomed to and it got us out of our comfort zone in order to experience the ways of similar organizations.

Something new for MARAC members was Thursday's "Day of Service" at the Boston Public Library to help them improve online access to their Pictorial Archive. Participants worked to convert addresses into geo-coordinates by using Google maps. Historical images of Boston were located on a map tool in Digital Commonwealth, the statewide repository system for digital collections. "Day of Service" is part of NEA's annual volunteer outreach initiative that began in 2013. MARAC is looking to make this into its own outreach initiative to help colleagues improve access to their collections.

The workshops on Thursday included copyright fundamentals, project management for archival processing, and arrangement and description. There were tours of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, and Rare Books and Manuscripts Department of the Boston Public Library (see photo) among others.



Friday, the first big day of the conference, began with a "Call to Action," which was a resource fair featuring representatives from MARAC and NEA committees, roundtables, and task forces. It was an effective way to welcome new members and get them involved.

Plenary speaker Danna Bell talked about the *Education of an Archivist*. A reference specialist of the Educational Outreach Team at the Library of Congress, she discussed access and reference, and having a passion about what you do. She stressed the importance of continuing your archival education and then thinking how to apply that new knowledge at work. Recommending that we work as "reference archivists," she said we need to slow down and provide more direction to users, communicate effectively, and, if that was difficult because we were introverts, to push ourselves to speak to at least two people we have never spoken to before. Most importantly, as archivists we must know what to do and how to do it and to realize that sometimes we do not see how unclear this can be to non-archivists. It was a good pep talk to send us off into the day.

NJLA H&P vice-president Deb Schiff was a speaker at the *Nurturing Nature* lightning session that discussed the actions, projects, explorations, and thoughts of archives staff who use and manage records about the environment, nature and recreation in the natural world. Her five minutes were about the merits of superfund site records.

Wrapping up the business day were the state caucus meetings. As seems to be the case more and more, New Jersey and New York shared a room. Instead of the members of one state sitting on one side of the room and the other on the other side as we have done in the past, we took the cue from the MARAC/NEA camaraderie and mingled, shared our events, laughed and seemed to enjoy each other's company.

Something again a little different for MARAC was a full day of sessions on Saturday, beginning with the business meeting where Susan Hamburger received the Distinguished Service Award for her significant contributions to MARAC and the archival profession. Recently retired from Penn State where she was the Manuscripts Cataloging Librarian, she had received her MLS from Rutgers University. During her acceptance speech, she thanked many folks by name who had influenced her professional career at Rutgers.

I was fortunate to participate in the roundtable session *Provenance vs. Artificial Collections: To Restore or Not to Restore?* We talked about our collections and how early archival collections had been dispersed across artificial collections according to subject or type. While this process may have helped with access at that time, it wreaked havoc on provenance. We discussed instances where restoring provenance was a simple move, but other instances that were more challenging. While some audience members were disappointed that there

was not a black and white answer to give them, others were interested in the methods we had implemented to deal with these issues and make collections more accessible to the researcher. I was surprised to hear one person describe our session as the "most controversial" of the conference.

Something else that was different for MARAC was that there was no formal luncheon or speaker on either day. Lunch was on your own Friday, while Saturday had several informal lunchtime discussions such as digital preservation in practice, finding and initiating mentoring relationships, an ArchivesSpace demonstration, and crafting a session proposal for future conferences. It was a great opportunity to network and chat with colleagues, visit the vendors, or just chill out on your own because sometimes these conferences can cause information overload.

Saturday wound down with the *Tipsy Tour* of dram shops and drunken sailors. Our tour guide Liam of Boston-by-Foot (who also led the "Dark Side of Boston" tour on Thursday) gave us a great walking tour of the city where we heard about booze, hooch, and grog. Liam told us about the early history of Boston, Prohibition, pub life, mob hits, and duels. And then the Fall 2014 MARAC/NEA was over - what an interesting way to say goodbye to New England!

The next meeting will be held in **Roanoke, Virginia, October 8-10, 2015**. For more information about MARAC, please go to the website: www.marac.info. Consider becoming a member and check out the New Jersey Caucus's Facebook Group page - anyone can join to learn about upcoming events, workshops, and activities of the repositories throughout the state: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/814182725289902/>

PRESERVATION DAY, APRIL 30, 2015

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

On Thursday, April 30th, the Monmouth County Archives and the Monmouth County Library sponsored a free program and lecture on preservation techniques for family photos. Attendees had the opportunity to visit the Archives and have a few personal documents or photos professionally digitized.

The program was held at the Monmouth County Library and the Monmouth County Archives in Manalapan, and was part of the American Library Association's annual Preservation Week.

At 10 am, Monmouth County Archivist Gary Saretzky gave a presentation on *Preserving Family Photographs*. From 11:30 am to 3:30 pm, the public was invited to visit the Archives and have up to three documents or photos scanned and saved to a CD to take home at no charge. Staff was on hand

to answer questions on how to use the Archives to research family history.

"We want to help the public preserve their treasured family memories and also make the community more aware of the preservation work conducted by the library and the archives," said Gary Saretzky, Archivist at the Monmouth County Archives.

Family history in written documents and photos should last a lifetime and be passed on to future generations. Preservation Week is sponsored by the Association for Library Collections and Technical Services, a division of American Library Association (ALA). It is designed to raise awareness of the role libraries and other cultural institutions can play in providing ongoing preservation information.

For more information, call 732-308-3771 ext. 5.

H&P SECTION MEETING

The next meeting of the New Jersey Library Association's History and Preservation Section will be on **Monday, June 1st** at the Warren County Library at 10 am. A business meeting will be followed by a tour of the Library's Local History and Genealogy collections.

The Warren County Library is located at 2 Shotwell Drive, Belvidere, NJ 07823. An alternative address for GPS is 187 CR 519 Belvidere, NJ. See you there!

SOMERSET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN RECOVERY

Submitted By Susan Fogg Eisdorfer, Corresponding Secretary

As you may be aware, Somerset County Historical Society experienced a whirlwind visit from Murphy (of Murphy's Law notoriety) last January and we are still in recovery mode. Due to two defective valves on the new HVAC system we installed, we had a total of 7,000 gallons of water course through the house before the ordeal ended. This was the center ring show of the circus. Two side ring shows involved an oil spill in the basement and a tractor-trailer from Canada backing into and destroying our mailbox. After the building was dried out and the damage assessed, recovery began and much progress has been made.

A new ceiling is up in the library and also in the West parlor. All the holes in the walls created to accommodate the industrial strength dehumidifiers we had to employ are still there, but the place is slowly getting back to normal. Work is ongoing to seed Lillian's Garden for this new season. We are again

open to visitors, although access is still limited due to whatever work is being done on any given day. It has been one wild ride. It is, of course, supremely ironic that the major damage came from defects in the very system installed to protect the house and our collections.

We are pleased, too, that our newsletter, which had not been published since the January-February 2014 issue, is now again active. Our second issue of this year, March-April, is now at the printer and should become available soon.

Happily, life goes on. We can see the difference every week when we go in to open up the building to visitors again.

For more information, please go to our website <http://www.schsnj.com>.

We have not had a chance to update the site, but hope

to do that soon. We will have new board members as of our May meeting, so that appears the best time to update everything.



PLAINFIELD CELEBRATES WOMEN'S HISTORY

Submitted By Sarah Hull, Head of Local History

The Plainfield Public Library presented two new exhibits in celebration of Women's History Month in March. The Library is displaying selected items from the newly donated Anne Louise Davis Collection, as well as eight artworks by women artists that are in the Library's Fine Art Collection.



Anne Louise Davis. Oil on Canvas; ca. 1990
by Gerry Heydt.

This year's Women's History Month exhibits honor Anne Louise Davis (1913-2000), who was a life-long resident of Plainfield. Miss Davis was active in numerous community organizations and boards. She worked full time in New York City and then

volunteered in the evening as a nurse's aide at Muhlenberg Hospital. She was at the forefront of local advocacy efforts for the construction of the current Plainfield Public Library building. She later became President of the Library's Board of Trustees, a position she held for many years. In recognition of her dedication to the Library, after her death the Library Board of Trustees named the Library's community meeting room in her honor.

During her career, she was a public relations officer for an advertising agency in New York City, handling contracts for non-fiction magazine articles, radio, TV, and movies. She went on to become a literary agent, working with noted authors like J. D. Salinger and Langston Hughes. Two notable items in the exhibit are books inscribed to her by Salinger and Hughes.

The fine-arts exhibit of women artists includes works by Indira Bailey, Ellie Bogardus, Riva Helfond, Gerry Heydt, Carolyn Keskulla, and Elizabeth Nathan. Anne Louise Davis was also an amateur sculptor, working in wood, metal and stone. Several of her pieces are in the current exhibit.

The Anne Louise Davis Collection was on display on the main level near the Reference Desk and in the reading area; it ran through April 2015. The artwork by women artists is still on display in Room 5 on the lower level and will remain there through the summer. All Library exhibits are free and open to the public.

INNOVATIVE ARCHIVES AWARD

Submitted By Laura Poll, MARAC NJ Caucus Chair

The New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference will present its Innovative Archives Award to a New Jersey organization that has furthered the cause of archives and history in the state. The Award, established in 1997, is given to an organization that has provided exemplary leadership or service to the archival community and residents of the state. The Award may also honor a local, county, or regional organization, and can be given either for long-term leadership or service, or for outstanding effort demonstrated in a given year.

Nominees may have developed innovative educational or outreach models utilizing archival sources, provided leadership during a time of emergency or crises, demonstrated new thinking

into working solutions, exhibited creativity in increasing awareness of local history resources among New Jersey residents and visitors, or otherwise provided exemplary service to the archives and history communities.

The Award will consist of a certificate of appreciation, and special acknowledgment presented in October during Archives & History Day at the Monmouth County Library Headquarters in Manalapan. The winning organization will also be given complimentary table registration during the event.

For more information on the award, please contact the Caucus Chair at laurampoll@gmail.com

BOOKS ARE THE THING

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

Joe Da Rold, reviewer

The World According to John Irving

IN ONE PERSON (2012) by John Irving.

John Irving's *In One Person* is a bawdy love-or-hate novel, replete with literary references and colorful characters: Grandpa Harry is a cross-dressing lumberman who gets all the best female parts in the town's little-theatre presentations, to the frustration of his oldest daughter; Miss Frost is a transgender former male wrestler, now the town librarian, whose readers' advisory skills are unmatched. Of particular delight is how Irving draws on literary characters from Shakespeare, Dickens, Tennessee Williams, and James Baldwin to inform his own characters.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

Member Updates from Across New Jersey

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



The Long Branch Free Public Library's Women's History Month program, held on March 18th, was *WASP Take Wing: The Story of WWII WASPs through the Eyes of Ann Baumgartner Carl* (WASP stands for Women Air Service Pilots). Carl was the Jersey girl who became the only woman to test fly experimental planes during the war and the first woman to fly a jet airplane. Approximately twenty-five people attended this program. The photograph shows Levin in period pilot's attire and Outreach Coordinator Lisa Kelly dressed in a costume from a different period for Staff Spirit Week.

At 7 pm on April 29th, the Library will host the Long Branch Historical Association for their program, *Vinnie, Bartender to the Mob*. The program will feature the recent book by that name, by Vincent Filippone, as told to Rosemary Calabretta. Filippone was the bartender at the Surf Lounge, a Long Branch bar that catered to known mobsters. Rosemary Calabretta will speak.

Notable local history displays at the Library included *Burlesque Ladies of Long Branch*, curated by Library Assistant Janice Grace in March, and *Art Tour of Historic Long Branch*. The historic art tour, on exhibit through April, consists of illustrations from *Harper's Weekly*, as well as other images in the Library's collection, many from the Durnell Collection. The exhibit was curated by Lisa Kelly, Janice Grace, and volunteer Patricia Donohoe.



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

On June 18th at 6:30 pm, Jarrett M. Drake, Digital Archivist at Princeton University's Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, will give a presentation of his paper on New Jersey slave consent laws for which he received a NJSAA award. If you missed it then, it is well worth coming to this presentation. It will be part of the Library's observance of Juneteenth.

New Brunswick Public Library continued

On June 25th at 6:30 pm, Ian Burrow of Hunter Research in Trenton will explain and update us on the on-going archaeological dig he is supervising here in New Brunswick at the First Reformed Church. Ian has spoken here before and presented with his Rutgers students on a project mapping New Brunswick at different historical periods.

The Library is located at 60 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For more information, please email Kim Adams at ekad1947@lmxac.org or call Reference at 732-745-5108 ext. 20.

New Jersey State Library – submitted by Michele P. Stricker, Assoc. Director, Library Support Services

Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive Program

Thoughtful preparation for an emergency or disaster is one of the most important steps that a cultural institution can take to safeguard collections. This day-long, hands-on program will increase practical knowledge through hands-on salvage of a simulated disaster. Participants will use the Incident Command System while learning to salvage a variety of materials, including paintings, wooden furniture, glass/metal/ceramic objects, textiles, paper, photographs, and books. Personal safety, initial site assessment, object triage and tracking, and post-disaster debriefing will also be addressed during the workshop. Strengthen connections between cultural institutions and regional emergency management agencies by working and learning together. Knowledge of basic salvage techniques and/or prior attendance in a collections-oriented emergency response workshop is encouraged. Registration is limited to 20 people. ***Look for registration details soon.*** Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

CCAHA Speakers: Dyani Feige, Director of Preservation Services; Jessica Keister, Paper & Photograph Conservator; Michele Kinney, Preservation Specialist.

Bergen County on July 15, 2015

Camden County on July 22, 2015

New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response Statewide Summit on September 9, 2015 / Venue: TBD

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

The Plainfield Public Library announces that two important historical resources are now available to the public online. Previously only accessible from Library computers or on microfilm, Plainfield's early newspapers and local city directories are now searchable from any internet-ready computer. The PDF documents are searchable using keywords or phrases, and searches can be limited by a year or decade.

Plainfield Public Library continued

The databases were created and are provided by Digital Memory Media, a premier digitization company located in East Brunswick, NJ.



Our collection of digitized early local newspapers, dating from 1837 to 1918, contain the following seven titles: *Plainfield Union* (1837-1852), *Central New Jersey Times* (1868-1880), *The Constitutionalist* (1868-1911), *Plainfield Evening News* (1884-1894), *The Plainfield Courier* (1891-1894), *Plainfield Daily Press* (1887-1916), and the *Plainfield Record* (1916-1918). *The Suburbanite* (1903-1909), a monthly magazine, is also included. The digitized newspapers are located at http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/Departments/LH/LH_digitizednewspapers.html

In addition to the newspapers, the Plainfield city directories are now available online. The city directories span 1870 to 1982, with gaps, with varying information on the city over the one hundred and twelve year span of their coverage. The earliest directory held by the Library is the Elizabeth directory for 1870, which includes an eleven-page section for Plainfield businesses. By the time the final directory was published in 1982, its roughly 700 pages were dedicated to Plainfield and North Plainfield exclusively. The digitized city directories are located at http://www.digifind-it.com/plainfield/city_directories.php

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

[Discover the Millstone Valley Scenic Byway](#)

Wednesday, May 20th from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Rocky Hill, NJ

Join author and lifelong NJ resident Linda Barth for an introduction to Somerset County's newest byway. Traveling the Millstone Valley byway is like a trip into the history of Somerset County and villages such as Millstone, Griggstown, and Rocky Hill offer a glimpse into valley life as it was and still is.

[An Armchair Journey to Waterloo Village Historic Site, Stanhope, N.J.](#)

Thursday, June 11th from 7 to 8 pm at the Somerville Public Library, Somerville, NJ

Waterloo Village is a restored living history village on the banks of the Musconetcong River and the Morris Canal. This 19th-century village contains Victorian homes, a working gristmill, a general store, blacksmith shop, a sawmill, the Canal Society of New Jersey museum, and several historic houses. Canal historian Robert Barth will share his knowledge about this unique canal town and its relation to the Morris Canal.

Somerset County Library System continued

Jersey Shore History and Facts

Saturday, June 27th from 3 to 4 pm at the Somerville Public Library, Somerville, NJ

Have you ever wondered ... why is there an elephant-shaped building in Margate? Who built a concrete ship and why did it sink near Cape May? Why are there towns on the Jersey shore named Loveladies, Shipbottom, and Rio Grande? Join author and photographer Kevin Woyce for a breezy tour of our coastal history - from pirates, shipwrecks, and lighthouses to grand hotels, abandoned forts, and today's most popular boardwalks.

The Battle of Bound Brook Reenactment

Thursday, July 9th from 6:30 to 8 pm at the Somerville Public Library, Somerville, NJ

This professionally acted presentation will immerse listeners in the colonial life of Somerset County in 1777 as they learn about this often overlooked Revolutionary war battle that was as large as the battles of Trenton or Princeton. From this presentation as an eyewitness account using a contemporary map of the battle, attendees will learn General Cornwallis's plans for the battle and the reasons behind the attack, and will uncover details from Hessian Col. Ewald's diary describing the "murderous" fighting and plunder of Bound Brook. Attendees will have to decide if they are a Patriot or Loyalist as they experience 18th century patriotism and courtesy while learning local history.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

May – MARAC NJ Caucus Meeting on May 13th

American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark

May 1 – 7 pm / *Annual May Day Festival*. There is a \$1.00 per person admission.

Mary Jacobs Memorial Library

May 20 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *Discover the Millstone Valley Scenic Byway*

Plainfield Public Library

May 14 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

May 31 – 11:30 am to 3 pm / *Plainfield Garden Tour 2015*, in support of the Local History Department

Call 908-757-2305 for more information

Van Harlingen Historical Society at the Mary Jacobs Library in Rocky Hill

May 7 – 7 pm / *Montgomery Township: As It Was*

May 20 – 7 pm / *Discover the Millstone Valley National Scenic Byway*

Call 609-924-7073 for more information

June – H&P Section Meeting on June 1st

New Brunswick Public Library

June 18 – 6:30 pm / Jarrett M. Drake, Digital Archivist on NJ slave consent laws

June 25 – 6:30 pm / Ian Burrow of Hunter Research on First Reformed Church archaeological dig

Plainfield Public Library

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

Somerville Public Library

June 11 – 7 to 8 pm / *An Armchair Journey to Waterloo Village Historic Site*

June 27 – 3 to 4 pm / *Jersey Shore History and Facts*

July

New Jersey State Library - Disaster Response and Recovery: A Hands-on Intensive Program

July 15 / Bergen County, details TBA

July 22 / Camden County, details TBA

Plainfield Public Library

July 9 – 10:30 am to 12 pm / Memoir Writing Club meeting

Somerville Public Library

July 9 – 6:30 to 8 pm / *The Battle of Bound Brook Reenactment*