

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

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2019-2020 H&P Section Executive Board

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Secretary: Richetta Wilson

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To submit articles, news or calendar events to *The Chronicle*, email Colleen Goode, at

cgoode@theoceancountylibrary.org

If possible, please send images with captions with the text.

**The submission deadline for the
Fall issue is September 25, 2019**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Sarah Hull, Section President

Greetings, H&P Section members and 2019-2020 executive board! As I begin my one-year term as president of this fabulous section, I sincerely thank outgoing President Tom Ankner for his incredible work over the past two years. Under his able leadership, we strengthened and expanded our presence as one of the most active NJLA sections – both through professional development programs (thanks also to Carolyn Dorsey) and via social media (thanks to Danny Klein). A special thank you to *The Chronicle* editor Colleen Goode. With each issue, Colleen outdoes herself. It is simply a pleasure to read.

I am truly delighted that so many of us attended this year's NJLA Conference. We had great turnouts for all three of our section programs, with a whopping 60+ attendees at the *Born Digital* session. Just incredible! Thank you to everyone who lectured, moderated, or otherwise participated. Let's all give a hearty congratulations to Karl J. Niederer, the 2019 recipient of the section's Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation award (see page 6).

Please help me welcome to their new positions: Ken Kaufman as Vice President/President Elect and Richetta Wilson Lobban as Secretary (see pages 2 - 4 for more information about everyone on the 2019-2020 board). I look forward to working with them this year.

Now, down to business. My goal as section president for 2019-2020 is to establish an H&P Section Speakers Panel. This panel would consist of section members willing to offer presentations primarily about the resources available at their library or archive. Organizations (such as genealogy clubs and historical societies) could request one or more speakers. While clubs and

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historical societies could still reach out directly to their local libraries, this program would provide an easy, additional way for organizations to learn about New Jersey resources. Details such as financial payments (if allowed by NJLA) and speaker presentation guidelines will be determined.

Details about our first section meeting will follow soon. Also, please save the date of **Wednesday, October 16th** for the section's fall meeting at Monmouth County Archives, where Gary Saretzky has another great day of speakers already planned.

Thanks!

New Section Leadership:



President: Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library

Sarah Hull is the head of the Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections Department at the Plainfield Public Library. Sarah has an MA in Medieval Studies from Fordham University and an MS in Library and Information Science, with a concentration in Archives Management, from Simmons College. She has been working as a professional librarian and archivist for over twenty years. She is an NJLA Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award recipient (2017). In her spare time, she enjoys anything steampunk, playing hide and seek (mostly seek) with her cat, and buying arts & crafts supplies.



Vice President: Kenneth Kaufman, Somerset County Library System

Ken Kaufman is an adult services librarian at Somerset County Library System, specializing in local history and genealogy research assistance. For eight years, he has been active in the History & Preservation Section, serving as Secretary for the last several years. Earning an MLS from Rutgers University, he has been a librarian for 19 years, working in various reference and collection development capacities at the Bridgewater branch of SCLSNJ and Old Bridge Public Library. Prior to his library career, Ken worked in banking and received a BS from Penn State University and an MBA from St. Joseph's University.

Secretary: Richetta Wilson Lobban, East Orange Public Library: After working many years in museums and publishing, Richetta Wilson Lobban decided that librarianship was the path for her and earned an MLIS from Rutgers University. She is currently a reference librarian at the East Orange Public Library, aiming to make its local history collection more accessible to the public.



Past President: Thomas Ankner, Newark Public Library:

Thomas Ankner has been an information professional for more than 25 years. After working in the Circulation Department at the Morristown & Morris Township Library, he received an MLS degree from Rutgers in 1992. Tom then worked at the Brooklyn Public Library, where he assisted patrons in the Telephone Reference division.

In 1996, Tom took a detour into the private sector. He spent more than a decade as a researcher for national news media outlets: first for ABC News in New York City, then for USA TODAY outside of Washington, DC.

Tom made a return to the world of public libraries when he was hired by the Newark Public Library in 2010. He was recently promoted to be the principal librarian in charge of the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center. He has also operated a small genealogy research business since 2011.

Members-at-Large:

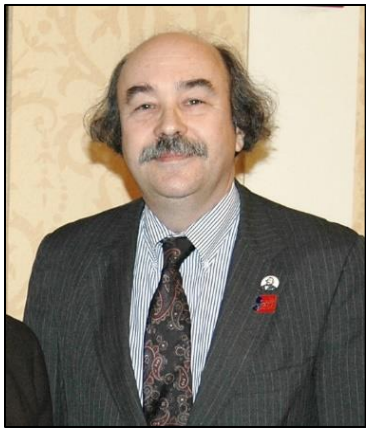


Sarah Kiefer, Ridgewood Public Library: Sarah Kiefer pursued her MLIS at Rutgers University, graduating in 2013. With her interest in history, and her previous Master's of History from William Paterson University, she fit right into the role of Local History Librarian at Ridgewood Public Library. Though she spends most of her time in the Bolger Heritage Center, assisting patrons with questions on local history and genealogy, Sarah is also a part of the Reference team.



Jessica Myers, Bloomfield Historical Society:

Jessica Myers works with the Historical Society of Bloomfield. She received her MLIS from Rutgers University in 2000. Jessica retired as Plainfield Public Library's Local History & Special Collections Librarian in 2012. She currently leads the Memoir Writing Group at Plainfield Senior Center. In the past, she worked at Princeton Public Library, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale and Christ's College Library in Cambridge.



Gary Saretzky, Monmouth County Archives: Gary D. Saretzky has worked as an archivist at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin (1968-1969), Educational Testing Service (1969-1993), and the Monmouth County Archives (1994 to present). Gary taught history of photography at Mercer County Community College (1977-2012) and coordinated the Public History Internship Program for the Rutgers University History Department (1994-2016). He has served as a consultant to more than 60 different archives in New Jersey, primarily through CAPES, the consulting service of the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC/NJ). As a Public Scholar for the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, he has given more than 50 lectures around

the state on 19th century New Jersey photographers. Gary has been President of the Princeton Preservation Group since 2005 and is a past Chair of the Business Archives Section of the Society of American Archivists (1978-1979), the MARAC/NJ Caucus (1998-2002), the Preservation Committee of the New Jersey Region V Library Cooperative (1988-1990), and the Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association (1986-1987).



Save the Date!

H&P Section Meeting

October 16th, 12 pm

Monmouth County Library, Manalapan



H&P AT NJLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE HARRAH'S, ATLANTIC CITY

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, Vice President, Thomas Ankner, Past-President and
Jessica Myers, Member-at-Large

The History & Preservation Section held three great programs this year. The lead off H&P sponsored program was *"Is My House Haunted? House History Research,"* presented by Danny Klein of Jersey City Free Public Library, Laura Poll of Trenton Public Library, and Heather Perez of Stockton University and moderated by Sarah Hull of Plainfield Public Library. The program was attended by 45 people. Presenters discussed essential resources at their libraries for discovering the history of a property. At Jersey City Library, its collection of Sanborn, tax assessment, and Hopkins maps were effective "go-to" sources. Other key items included national register eligibility surveys, tax lists, historic district nomination forms, city directories, and newspapers. Trenton Library's collection featured unique items such as house photographs among its tax records, real estate ephemera, house tour programs, and select employee records. Located in a historically rural area, Stockton University's land deed collection was the spotlighted resource, and it doubled as an effective teaching tool with students transcribing the text and using online mapping tools to draw out lot boundaries.

The next session was *"What do we do with this? Managing Born Digital Records."* Presenter Annalise Berdini, Digital Archivist at Princeton University, advised the audience to ask essential questions during the assessment stage of a project, to make connections with stakeholders, to document and develop policies, and to appraise and make copies of the most important files. James Lewis of the North Jersey History and Genealogy

Center (Morristown PL) discussed how you can implement a digital processing, preservation, and access program with limited resources.

Approximately 40 people attended the last session entitled, *"Exploring our Past: African American Genealogy."* The session was co-sponsored with the



Dale Colston, Newark Public Library, moderator; Gene Armstead, Jr., President of the African-American Historical & Genealogical Society; Evelyn McDowell, founder and President of Sons & Daughters of the United States Middle Passage (SDUSMP); Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library.

Diversity & Outreach Section and Reference Section, and was moderated by Dale Colston of the Newark Public Library. This program was designed to help librarians who receive reference questions about African American genealogy. Attendees learned from experts in the field about some noteworthy organizations and strategies to help field these questions.

SUSAN G. SWARTZBURG PRESERVATION AWARD

Presented by Gary Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist

“As an archivist with the New Jersey State Archives from 1978 to 2012, including many years as Supervising Archivist and then Bureau Chief of the Division of Archives & Records Management (DARM), Karl Niederer worked tirelessly to promote the preservation of New Jersey’s State and Colonial Era archival records. In addition to his archival work, he conceived and implemented DARM’s PARIS grants program (2005-2010) that provided millions of dollars in grants to county and municipal governments to enhance the preservation of and access to their records. For example, through PARIS, the Monmouth County Archives got several hundred thousand dollars of grant funds which we used to install compact shelving and equip a conservation room. The compact shelving enabled us to open up free storage for municipalities to store historically valuable records with us and about 20 have done so.

Karl has been very active as a contributor to professional organizations, including service on the Executive Committee of the NJLA Preservation Section (a precursor to the History & Preservation Section) from 1987 to 2000. He has also been President and Vice President of the Council of State Archivists (2003-2008); Coordinator of the New Jersey State Historical Records Advisory Board (1994-2012); Secretary of the New Jersey Studies Alliance; and for MARAC, Member-at-Large on Steering Committee (1987-1989) and Chair, MARAC Steering Committee (1991-1993). In 1988, Karl helped conceive and develop the CAPES consulting program for the New Jersey Caucus of MARAC and has served as a consultant conducting site visits.

With funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission, CAPES has provided more than 500 free consulting visits to libraries and archives. These visits no doubt have helped many of the sites with preservation issues.



Karl Niederer and Gary Saretzky

After transferring to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office in 2013, where he worked until his retirement in 2018, Karl became Administrator for the New Jersey Cultural Alliance for Response (NJCAR), helping to enhance future disaster recovery efforts for the state’s libraries and other cultural institutions. A former resident of Hopewell, Karl was Supervising Editor for *Hopewell: A Historical Geography* (1991) and has been active in the Hopewell Valley Historical Society, currently serving as a trustee. Among other publications, he was a co-compiler of *A Guide to Family History Resources in the New Jersey State Archives* (1987, rev. 1994) and an editorial assistant for volumes 4

and 5 of *Laws of the Royal Colony of New Jersey* (1982, 1986).

Karl is the epitome of a public servant working in the fields of archives, libraries, and history. He consistently strives to get the best quality results in

each of his numerous endeavors. He conducts his work with creativity and attention to detail. His accomplishments and ability to work well with others has earned the respect and admiration of his staff and professional colleagues. I am pleased to present this year's Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award to Karl Niederer."



Susan Swartzburg Preservation Award Winners (Left to Right): Tim Corlis (2014), Sarah Hull (2017), Karl Neiderer (2019), Gary Saretzky (2006), Elsalyn Palmisano (2003), Michele Stricker (2010), Chad Leinaweaver (2018)

2019 ARCHIVES AND HISTORY DAY: OCT. 12 AT MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

Plans are in place for the 24th annual Archives and History Day, Saturday, October 12, to be held at the Monmouth County Library HQ in Manalapan. As of June 2019, some of the 63 exhibitor tables are still available for archives and libraries with local history collections, as well as other history-related organizations.

Contact Shelagh.reilly@co.monmouth.nj.us to register your organization (no registration for individuals to attend).

The featured speaker will be Michele LaRue, *“Someone Must Wash the Dishes: An Anti-Suffrage Satire.”* LaRue tours nationally with a repertoire of one-woman productions using American writing from “the long 19th century” (the period between our Civil War and World War I)—performed in vibrant oral interpretation style. Now based in New York City, she has presented her offerings at more than 300 venues, ranging from Washington’s Smithsonian Institution to Chicago’s Newberry Library to NYC’s Lincoln Center. This program is a Public Scholars Project of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Here is a synopsis:

For decades, countless American women fought for the right to vote. But many others—like the costumed fictional Anti-Suffragist portrayed in this program—fought against it. Written by pro-Suffragist Marie Jenney Howe in 1912, this witty, insightful satire sheds light on some of the apparently absurd arguments offered by those opposed to the Suffragist movement. Anti-

arguments like “If given the ballot, would she destroy civilization by voting with—or by voting against!—her own husband?” will be explored, while insight about the sociological, historical, and political context informs the arguments against Suffrage.



Michelle LaRue

At the event, several awards will be presented, including the Roger McDonough Award for a long and significant career in libraries or archives. The award is cosponsored by NJLA H&P, MARAC/NJ Caucus, the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, and the New Jersey Historical Commission. This year, the Roger McDonough Award will be presented to archivist Ellen Callahan, recently retired collections manager of the New Jersey State Archives. A preliminary program for the event is available at

<https://www.monmouthcountyclerk.com/archives/events-exhibits/>

Archives Week in Monmouth County also includes three public programs on Wednesday, October 16, to coincide with an NJLA H&P meeting at the lunch break.

Wednesday, October 16, 9:30-10:30am

Dr. Walter D. Greason, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Educational Counseling and Leadership, Monmouth University. *“From the Pines to the Waves: Wealth, Leadership, and Historic Preservation.”* New Jersey’s history hinges

on the events in Monmouth County. Long before the Battle of Monmouth, however, the economic patterns of land-use and local governance established traditions that continue to shape the state in the twenty-first century. Few teachers and scholars have examined these patterns, but the emergence of the new history of capitalism since 2015 has excited the interest of historians, anthropologists, sociologists, journalists, and geographers. This presentation will explore the



Walter Greason

recent advances in the study of New Jersey across these disciplinary boundaries, featuring emerging insights from student researchers. Valuable to elected officials, policymakers, and educators, the successful opening of the T. Thomas

Fortune Cultural Center, a National Historic Landmark, will provide an important case study about wealth, leadership, and historic preservation in this region.

Wednesday, October 16, 10:45-11:45am:

Melissa Ziobro, Specialist Professor of Public History, Monmouth University. *“American Women and Royal Marriages: New Jersey’s Real-Life ‘Lady Coras.’”* Royal wedding fever has been in the air since Great Britain's Prince Harry wed American actress Meghan Markle on May 19, 2018, but marriages between American heiresses and impoverished European nobles once happened by the hundreds during the Gilded Age. The marriages secured social status for "new money" American



Melissa Ziobro

families often slighted by the established elites in their own country, while the infusion of American dollars allowed the impoverished nobility across the Atlantic to continue

to maintain the lifestyles to which their families had been accustomed for generations. Professor Ziobro will discuss the so-called “dollar princesses” of the Gilded Age, to include Lady Monson (née Romaine Stone, daughter of General Roy Stone of Morristown NJ), Lady Roberts (née Elizabeth Marie LaRoche, daughter of William Tell LaRoche of Harrington Park, NJ), and Princess Miguel of Braganza (née Anita Stewart, born in Elberon, NJ), and more.

Wednesday, October 16, 1:00-2:30pm:

Carol Simon Levin, Actor and Storyteller. *“Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey's Role in the Fight for Woman Suffrage.”* Carol Simon Levin will portray Lillian Feickert, president of the New Jersey



Carol Simon Levin

Woman Suffrage Association from 1912-1920, to tell the story of the role of New Jersey women in the long struggle for woman suffrage. Two hundred and twenty five years ago, women had the right to vote in only one state--New Jersey--a right they would lose in 1807 and not win back for more than five generations. New Jersey's role in the struggle to regain that right is largely overlooked. Hear the stories of women with Jersey ties: Elizabeth Cady

Stanton, Alice Paul, Lucy Stone, Portia Gage, Victoria Woodhull, the Grimké sisters, and more. Together, these and other women (and their male allies) propelled woman suffrage past reluctant male voters and through state and national legislatures to the final success of the 19th Amendment.

For questions about these programs, please contact Gary.Saretzky@co.monmouth.nj.us

ELLEN CALLAHAN SELECTED AS 2019 RECIPIENT OF ROGER MCDONOUGH AWARD

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

This award is named for Roger H. McDonough, New Jersey State Librarian from 1947 to 1975. Since 2002, the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, together with the New Jersey Historical Commission, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Library Association History & Preservation Section, has given an award to a librarian, archivist, or manuscript curator for excellence in service to the New Jersey history research community and/or the general public. The award will be presented on Archives and History Day at the Monmouth County Library HQ on October 12, 2019.

Ellen Callahan recently retired as New Jersey State Archives Collection Manager after 28 years of service. At the State Archives, she processed numerous record series and produced outstanding finding aids. Her detailed guides to Revolutionary War records, in particular, are highly valued for their scholarship. Ellen played a critical role in assisting the State Archivist Joseph Klett in planning and executing the move of the State Archives to its present location in 2000, involving more than

30,000 cubic feet of records. Among numerous subsequent activities, she supervised a \$700,000 Save America Treasures project to stabilize and repair more than 5,000 leaves of Revolutionary War documents. Ellen's outstanding professional accomplishments merit her selection as this year's McDonough Award recipient.



Ellen Callahan

MONMOUTH COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY WORKSHOP

“THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME”

Submitted by Elizabeth McDermott, MCGS Trustee and

Judy Bretzger, MCGS Newsletter Editor

Several members of the NJLA History & Preservation Section participated in a workshop organized by the Monmouth County Genealogical Society (MCGS) on March 30th. The goal of the workshop, “*There’s No Place Like Home! ‘Research Facilities in New Jersey’*” was to alert family historians to the variety of resources found in some lesser-known but robust destinations for researching family and local history.

Wendy Hudson of the Danish Archive North East (DANE) led off the presentations. The Archive and Museum in Edison is currently a Danish Cultural Center housed in a building that was formerly an assisted living facility for members of the Danish Brotherhood and Sisterhood in the Northeastern US. Nearby, Perth Amboy was once home to a thriving community of Danish immigrants, most arriving between 1870 and 1920. DANE welcomes inquiries from anyone researching their Danish ancestors. Their research is free and thorough.

Three New Jersey libraries were well represented by Sarah Hull of Plainfield Public Library, Cynthia Harris of Jersey City Public Library and Tom Ankner of Newark Public Library.

Sarah Hull described some of the abundant material at Plainfield’s Local History Room including photograph collections, scrapbooks, local surname files, the Plainfield Police logs, Bible records, diaries and journals and more.



Sarah Hull (Plainfield PL) and Mark White (President of MCGS)

As Manager of the Local History Room of the Jersey City Library, Cynthia Harris has presided over the growth of this resource for decades. The Joan D. Lovero collection contains books on all aspects of New Jersey life, city directories, periodicals, thousands of photographs, prints and postcards representing life in Jersey City for the last 200 years, and much more.

Tom Ankner emphasized the daily newspaper collections at the Newark Public Library, which include the *Newark Daily Advertiser* (1832-1907), *Newark Evening News* (1883-1939), the *Newark Star-Eagle* (1916-1939), and the *Star-Ledger* (1939 to the present). The clippings collection is popular with genealogists, as are the photo collection, the archives collection of personal papers, records of local organizations, and city and state documents.



Janice Grace (Long Branch PL), Tom Ankner (Newark PL), Mark White (President of MCGS)

Alan Delozier wore two hats and presented on both the New Jersey Catholic Historical Commission and the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH). Seton Hall University in South Orange was founded as the first Catholic college in New Jersey and has been accumulating records since 1856. It serves as the “dual primary repository for both a major educational institution and religious see,” according to Delozier.

His presentation on the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) was much anticipated by the attendees, as this type of information is generally hard to come by. Genealogists are eager to learn about the personal lives of their ancestors that may be found in social organizations. This collection includes material from 1888 to 1997. It contains AOH In America National Committee reports (1888-1990); the *Hibernian Journal* (1907-1969); *National*

Hibernian (1905-1932); and *National Hibernian Digest* (1947 -1997).

The Monmouth County Genealogical Society offers two workshops a year, featuring a different area of research each time. The next workshop is scheduled for October 26, 2019. Dean Henry will speak on African American Research and Family Tree Maker.

The MCGS also offers six free programs a year with various topics of a historical nature highlighted. All programs take place at 2pm at the Eatontown Community Center.



Cynthia Harris (Jersey City PL) and Alan Delozier (Seton Hall University)

HISTORIC PLAINFIELD WITH JOHN GRADY

Submitted by Sally Weiner, Archivist

Local History, Genealogy, & Special Collections at Plainfield Public Library

This year Plainfield celebrates its sesquicentennial, the 150th anniversary of its incorporation as a city. Throughout 2019 Plainfield has been marking the celebration with various activities and events. The Plainfield Public Library's contribution to the festivities included a lecture by John Grady and an exhibit featuring some of the extensive collection he donated to the Local History Department.

John Grady is a Plainfield author, collector, and history lover. He was born in 1948 and raised in Fanwood. He attended Wardlaw High School in Plainfield, which was then on Central Avenue. He moved to Plainfield in 1977, and lived for two years on West 8th Street. In 1979, he moved to 828 Arlington Avenue, where he stayed for thirty years before moving to Virginia in 2009. John worked as a real estate agent in Scotch Plains and was active in Plainfield historic preservation and restoration. He wrote the site nominations for the Hillside Avenue (1982, NRHP) and Van Wyck Brooks (1985, NRHP) Historic Districts.

In April 1999, he received the first-place award for *Victorian Homes* magazine's "Most Authentic Color Scheme for a Residence," a nationwide competition sponsored by the Sherwin-Williams Company, as well as a Union County Cultural and Heritage Commission Award. While here, he was a member of the Historical Society of Plainfield. John met Dorothe Pollard through Plainfield's Historic Review Committee – a grassroots residents' organization that was the predecessor to today's Plainfield



John Grady on the porch of his restored home at 828 Arlington Avenue, Plainfield, circa 2007

Historic Preservation Commission. He and Dorothe authored two books together: *Plainfield* (Arcadia, 2001) and *Plainfield, New Jersey's History & Architecture* (Schiffer, 2008).

In 2005, John donated nearly 1,000 glass plate negatives and prints, taken by local photographer Reina Lawrence (1869-1948), to the Plainfield Public Library. This was the beginning of what would

become The John Grady Historical Collection. To date, he has donated approximately 60 linear feet of historical materials. His generosity has provided Plainfielders with The Dorothea Dix Lawrence Papers; 107 images in the John Hoffman Photograph Collection; a run of photographic prints and negatives taken by local photographer Paul R. Collier that documents local residences; records and photographs from local Plainfield families; sundry artifacts and paper ephemera from local businesses, organizations, and houses of worship; and 352 unique vintage Plainfield postcards. Additionally, John donated the files and photographs documenting the history and restoration of his Arlington Avenue home.

Lawrence, and John Grady himself were on display in the Library's lobby, on the reading room wall, and in the Anne Louise Davis meeting room. On Saturday, May 11, John came back to Plainfield one last time, to present a slide show of the architecture and historic areas of the city to a packed audience. Quite a few attendees currently live in the houses he spoke about and were provided with unexpected insights into the histories of their homes. Unfortunately, we here in the Local History Department were so caught up in the presentation that we forgot to record it for posterity! A small consolation is that John donated the slides he used, as well as the slide projector, after the lecture. We plan to digitize the slide show in its entirety for the Library's website.

Many of these Plainfield artifacts and ephemera, postcards, photographs by Paul Collier, Reina



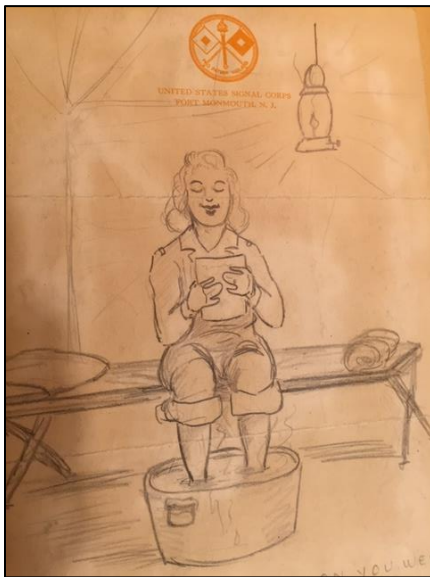
Lawrence family photographs, ephemera and artifacts from the John Grady Historical Collection

SERENDIPITY! REUNITING A 1944 SCRAPBOOK WITH PHOTOS OF WWII NURSE

Submitted by Elizabeth McDermott
Red Bank Public Library Local History Room volunteer

Friday June 7th in Ocean County with my friends – what better way to spend the morning but visiting estate sales! Trying hard not to buy anything I didn't need, I was flipping through a tattered scrapbook and asked "how much"? "Free" the owner said – "Just take it".

Score! Wonderful old greeting cards and postcards and even a Monmouth Medical Hospital graduation brochure from 1945. A collector's dream. But after I got home I looked through the pages and realized the "author" of this book was from Matawan and had been a nurse serving in England during WWII.



Hand drawing from the 1944 scrapbook belonging to Shirley Van Brakle

There were many clues but you had to be willing to see them. The scrapbook memorialized a year in the life of a young woman who served in an English hospital in 1944 after training at Fort Monmouth.

Parties, theatre tickets, sightseeing brochures – but also medical procedure lists and "do not adjust this setup" drawing of how to attach a drip bag.

I started researching her name – Shirley Van Brackle/Brakle (spelled both ways in various documents) – and found some old links to Van Brakles in Matawan. I went to the Matawan Aberdeen Public Library website and used their digitized copy of the *Matawan Journal* to do further research (this was not the first time I had used these wonderful Matawan newspapers to track down information!). Lo and behold, Shirley Van Brakle had returned from England and gotten engaged to Robert Bentley of Red Bank! Suddenly this scrapbook wasn't just any old collection of memorabilia. During my next visit to the Red Bank Public Library Local History Room I looked at old directories and confirmed the Bentley family had indeed lived at several addresses in Red Bank. I could not find Robert in the Red Bank High School yearbooks despite the article saying he attended the school so I posted the engagement announcement on the Facebook page Historic Red Bank. I received numerous tips from folks who had heard of the Bentleys. One woman reported that her father attended Wesleyan University with Robert Bentley and she is sure that her father introduced Robert and Shirley. She is still hunting in her family memorabilia for Robert's obituary.

So the end of the story is bittersweet. Both Shirley and Robert have passed away. And a bit of further online sleuthing brought up a site at the University of North Carolina Greensboro – the Women Veterans Historical Project. There under the name

WV0221 Shirley Van Brakle Papers are 28 photos of Shirley and other WWII era pictures that have been associated with Shirley. The bittersweet part is that when I phoned and spoke to the curator of The Betty H. Carter Women Veterans History Project at Hodges Special Collections & University Archives she was able to tell me the photos had been purchased on eBay in 2002. I now believe that my scrapbook was likely part of Shirley's papers that were dispersed when she passed away and sold.

I have emailed copies of the engagement announcement and also an article about Shirley's promotion to the University Archives as they had no biographical information on Shirley at all. I have been in discussions with the curator about shipping the scrapbook to them but as yet I haven't figured out how we're going to arrange that.

MARCH 8, 1945

ARMY NURSES WIN PROMOTIONS



LT. SHIRLEY VAN BRAKLE **LT. ISABEL FENNON**

Members of the U. S. Army Nurse Corps from Keyport and Matawan have received promotions to the rank of first lieutenant during the past month at the hospitals where they are stationed in England.

Shirley VanBrakle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James VanBrakle, 122 Broadway, Keyport, received her promotion on Feb. 16, at formal retreat at the 160th General Hospital in Western England, where she is stationed.

Isabel Fennon, daughter of Mrs. Willard Fennon, of 210 Main St., Matawan, became a first lieutenant on Feb. 1, at the 49th Station Hospital in England.

Lt. VanBrakle enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps on Aug. 2, 1943 and received her Army training at the Halloran General Hospital, Staten Island, later being transferred to Fort Monmouth and to Atlantic City. She was shipped overseas on her birthday, Apr. 20, 1944 and has been in England since that time.

Lt. VanBrakle is a graduate of the Matawan High School and the Monmouth Memorial Hospital School of Nursing.

Lt. Fennon has been overseas more than two years having been sent out of the country in August, 1942. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in April, 1942, and served at Midland, Tex., and in Iceland for a year and one-half before going to England.

Previous to her enlistment, Lt. Fennon was school nurse for the Metuchen schools. She is a graduate of the Anna May School of Nursing at Spring Lake and the Fitkin Memorial Hospital, Neptune.

Promotion photo - March 8, 1945 from Matawan Journal (accessed online from <https://www.matawanaberdeenlibrary.com/main.php>)

ENGAGEMENTS

Bentley-VanBrakle

Mr. and Mrs. James M. Van Brakle of 122 Broadway, Keyport, announce the engagement of their daughter, Shirley, to Robert Bentley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bentley of 59 W. Front St., Red Bank.

Miss VanBrakle is a graduate of



MISS SHIRLEY VAN BRACKLE

Matawan High School, Monmouth Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, and a post graduate of John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

Mr. Bentley attended Red Bank High School and is a graduate of Wesleyan University. Both are veterans of World War II.

Engagement photo - Thursday, July 17, 1947 from Matawan Journal (accessed online from <https://www.matawanaberdeenlibrary.com/main.php>)

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY MONSIGNOR WILLIAM NOÉ FIELD ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS CENTER

Submitted by Alan Delozier, University Archivist

“Studying Ireland, Irish Resources in the Archives & Special Collections Center” - Public Programming Events.

A number of different presentations connected to our repository were held throughout March in honor of St. Patrick’s Day and Irish Heritage month. Various resources from the collection of Irish literary figure and bibliophile M.J. (Meagher Joseph) MacManus (1888-1951) who wrote various nationalist-themed books and worked as editor of the *Irish Press* from 1931 until his death two decades later have been featured. This library includes over 3,000 titles dating from the seventeenth century to the present day and covers several different aspects of Irish and Irish-American life including culture, geography, literature, politics, biography, history and religion. More information can be found via the following site:

<http://blogs.shu.edu/archives/2019/03/studying-ireland-irish-resources-in-the-archives-and-special-collections-center/>

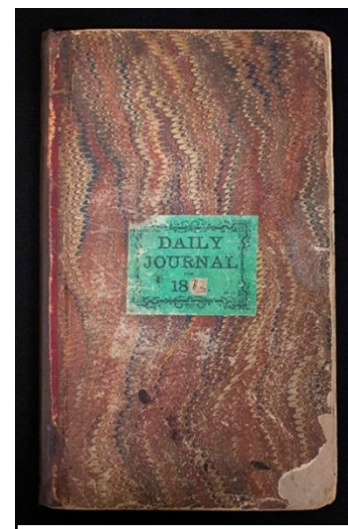
“Women of Accomplishment and Authority: Honoring the First Female Administrators and School Leaders of Seton Hall (1928-1959)” - Exhibit.

In honor of Women’s History Month and beyond, our repository presented a semester-long (Spring 2019) exhibit that recognized various pioneering female professionals who made a difference in the building of a stronger administrative and educational institution through their contributions. From the work of Marie K. Fitzsimmons who began her affiliation with Seton Hall as the College Registrar in 1928 to trailblazers such as Rita Murphy, Director of the Urban Division Library and Anne E. Murphy, the first Dean of Nursing among others.

When it came to wider recognition, Seton Hall instituted its School of Law in 1951 and Miriam T. Rooney, LL.B. made national history as the founding Dean who in the process became the first female to lead a graduate law school. More information can be found via the following site - <http://blogs.shu.edu/archives/2019/02/women-of-accomplishment-and-authority-honoring-the-first-female-administrators-and-school-leaders-of-seton-hall-1928-1959/>

John Erigena Robinson Diary (1870s) – Acquisition.

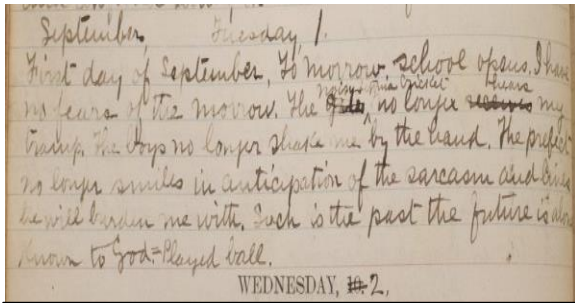
A historic student journal that once belonged to John Erigena Robinson (Seton Hall College class of 1874) was recently acquired by the Center. His diary centers upon everyday life at the school including



Front Cover

homework assignments, writing letters to his family or friends, and playing for the campus baseball team. John Erigena Robinson was the son of William Erigena Robinson, a Brooklyn-based congressman and journalist whose political career is mentioned

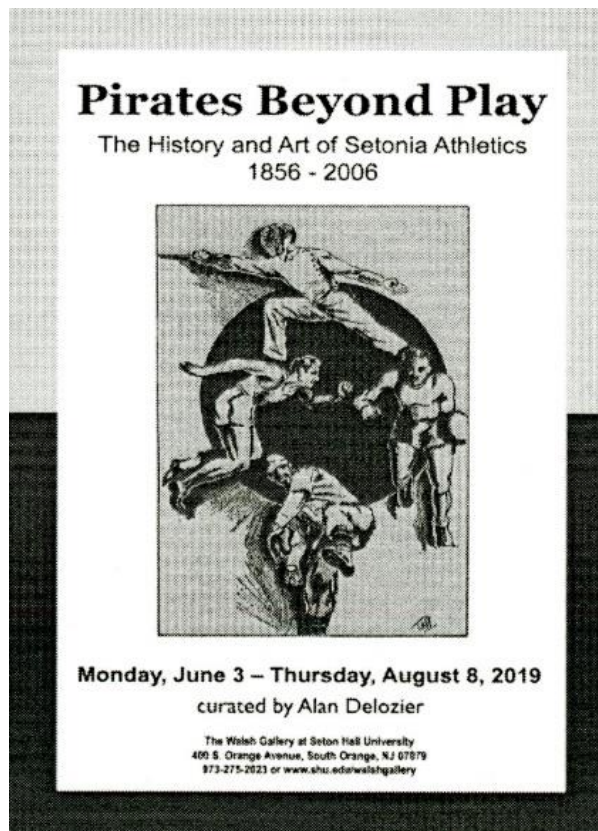
several times in the diary. More information about this volume can be found via the following site - <http://blogs.shu.edu/archives/2019/04/college-life-in-the-1870s-john-erigena-robinsons-diary/>



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“Pirates Beyond Play” (The History and Art of Setonia Athletics, 1856-2006) - Exhibit. The Walsh Gallery (located in Walsh Library), in conjunction with the Archives & Special Collections Center at

Seton Hall University, presents: “Pirates Beyond Play” (The History and Art of Setonia Athletics, 1856-2006) on display between June 3rd and August 8th, 2019. This exhibit, curated by University Archivist Alan Delozier, focuses on the symbolic, intellectual and aesthetic importance of sports on the Seton Hall University campus. Objects on display include artifacts such as vintage magazine covers, game programs, photographs, uniforms and other ephemera that give homage to numerous athletic achievements over the years. The Walsh Gallery is located on the first floor of Walsh Library located on the campus of Seton Hall University. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 10:30am to 4:30pm. Additional information can be found via the Walsh Gallery website - <https://library.shu.edu/walshgallery>



UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND NEW JERSEY

Monmouth County Genealogical Society

On July 14th, noted speaker and author Rick Geffken will present *“Slavery in New Jersey and the Quaker Abolition Movement”* a program about the history of slavery in New Jersey. He will focus this presentation on some Monmouth County towns. Mr. Geffken notes that “New Jersey, sadly, was the last northern state to outlaw slavery (1866).”

His publicity states: “At the famed Four Corners in the Borough of Shrewsbury - where today’s Route 35 intersects Sycamore Avenue – the occupants of the four extant colonial-era buildings were each involved with enslaving Africans and their descendants. Christ Church was built in 1769 by the Rev. Samuel Cooke who owned four slaves; the

Wardell House and the Allen House were occupied by notably harsh slave masters during the mid-18th century. Even the Society of Friends Meeting House (the building previous to the current structure built in 1816) was a place of worship for many Quaker slave holders.”

On September 8th, Fred Voss of the Bergen County Genealogy Society will present his detailed research of 5 families that came through Ellis Island.

The time and location of both meetings is 2 pm at the Eatontown Community Center, 72 Broad Street, Eatontown, NJ.

Ocean County Library

Submitted by Colleen Goode, Adult Services Librarian, Toms River Branch

[Double Trouble Village: a Window into Pine Barren Industries](#)

Wednesday, July 24, 11 am, Berkeley Branch

Learn about the history and industry of the Pine Barrens from 18th century logging town to cranberry industry powerhouse in the 20th century. *Sponsored by the Friends of the Berkeley Library.*

[History of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary](#)

Wednesday, July 31, 2019, 2 pm, Lacey Branch

Join us as Richard O'Mera from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary discusses the creation and history of their organization. Learn also what important services the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary provides to the public today. Please register.

[The History of Lavallette](#)

Wednesday, August 21, 7 pm, Upper Shores Branch

Join local historian and photographer Denise Wirth for a fun & informative presentation about Lavallette, City by the Sea.

[House Histories](#)

Saturday, October 5, 2 pm, Toms River Branch

Lorraine Arnold will discuss how she has researched house histories and solved mysteries such as the discovery of missing persons; identifying a family member who went incognito to subvert the law; murder, and suicide. *This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Ocean County Library – Toms River.*

Plainfield Public Library Announces Tri-County History Fair

Submitted by Sarah Hull, Head of Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections,
Plainfield Public Library

The Plainfield Public Library is excited to announce the **2019 Tri-County History Fair** for Middlesex, Somerset, and Union Counties. Join colleagues, friends, and neighbors for a fun day of historical discovery, resource sharing, raffles, and more. On **Saturday, September 28th** from 11 am to 3 pm, a variety of New Jersey history organizations, museums, and libraries will be exhibiting and promoting their historical collections or sites on the Library's lower level around the fountain. In honor of the City's 150th Anniversary and the 100th anniversary of Plainfield City Hall, there will be a City Hall photograph retrospective on display in the Anne Louise Davis room at this time.

This year's featured speaker is Dr. Lawrence Hogan, professor emeritus of history at Union County College, who will present, "***The Best Kept Secret in American Journalism: The Associated Negro Press.***" Dr. Hogan is the author of ***A Black National News Service: Claude Barnett and the Associated Negro Press*** as well as ***The Forgotten History of African American Baseball***. He served as Executive Producer and historian for the documentary ***Before You Can Say Jackie Robinson: Black Baseball in New Jersey and America in the Era of the Color Line***. He is the editor and co-author of ***Shades of Glory: The Negro Leagues and the Story of African American Baseball*** published by *National Geographic* and the National Baseball Hall of Fame.



Image: Building the cupola on Plainfield City Hall.
Photo by Paul R. Collier, 1917.

Dr. Hogan's program is part of the New Jersey Council for the Humanities' Public Scholars Project.

Throughout the day, we will raffle off door prizes donated by the exhibiting organizations. Additional programs to be announced.

If you are interested in registering your organization for a table, the table fee is \$20 and includes two boxed lunches per table. Please contact Sarah Hull at sarah.hull@plfdpl.info or call (908) 757-1111 x136.

Somerset County Library System

Submitted by Ken Kaufman, New Jersey Librarian

Greater Somerset County-Hub of the Revolution

Presented by Bob Mayers

Monday, July 1, 7 – 8 pm

Bridgewater branch

Places where patriots fought and died are unmarked, shrouded in mystery, clouded in mythology or concealed by obscure accounts and dull statistics. An abundance of these sites have been built over by towns and highways or are on private property. Many of the residents of Somerset County who drive every day over heavily trafficked streets are completely unaware of the fierce struggles that occurred along their route. Bob Mayers has rediscovered these places, in his book, ***Revolutionary New Jersey-Forgotten Towns and Crossroads of the American Revolution*** and revived these forsaken locations by exploring the actual sites. Bob's presentation will bring readers back in time to feel, see and hear the action that occurred in their neighborhoods over 200 years ago.

Birthplaces of the Presidents

Presented by Author, Louis L. Picone

Wednesday, July 10, 7 – 8 pm

Bridgewater branch

Learn about the birthplaces of our presidents from the author of ***Where the Presidents Were Born: The History and Preservation of the Presidential Birthplaces***. His book provides the history of the

birthplace of every American president, preservation efforts, visitor information, and personal observations. Almost every birthplace has been preserved in some way or another, from the grand monuments of Abraham Lincoln and James Buchanan, to replicas for George Washington and Theodore Roosevelt, or the simple roadside markers for Benjamin Harrison and Zachary Taylor. These places all have unique and often fascinating stories to tell.

New Jersey State Parks

Presented by Kevin Woyce

Wednesday, September 25, 7 – 8 pm

Somerville branch

Some of New Jersey's most exciting history can be found in its more than two dozen State Parks. Old names such as Wawayanda and Hopatcong remind us of the Lenni Lenape, or "Original People." Historic battlefields recall New Jersey's perilous years as "the Crossroads of the American Revolution." Abandoned forges still speak of our first great industry, and we can trace the beginnings of our transportation network in the paths of the Morris and the Delaware & Raritan Canals. This presentation includes original photography of many of New Jersey's beautiful state parks, plus vintage maps and images of historic people, places, and events.

UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 2019

Through August 8th: *"Pirates Beyond Play" Exhibit*, Seton Hall University, Walsh Library

1: *Greater Somerset County-Hub of the Revolution*, SCLS – Bridgewater, 7 pm

10: *Birthplaces of the Presidents*, SCLS – Bridgewater, 7 pm

14: *Slavery in New Jersey and the Quaker Abolition Movement*, MCGS, Eatontown, 2 pm

24: *Double Trouble Village: a Window into Pine Barren Industries*, OCL – Berkeley, 11 am

31: *History of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary*, OCL – Lacey, 2 pm

AUGUST 2019

21: *The History of Lavallette*, OCL – Upper Shores, 7 pm

SEPTEMBER

8: Presentation by Fred Voss on Ellis Island Families, MCGS, Eatontown, 2 pm

25: *New Jersey State Parks*, SCLS – Somerville, 7 pm

28: Tri-County History Fair for Middlesex, Somerset, and Union Counties, Plainfield Library, 11 am

OCTOBER

5: *House Histories*, OCL – Toms River, 2 pm

12: *Archives and History Day*, Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan

16: Archives Week presentations, Monmouth County Library, Manalapan

9:30 am *From the Pines to the Waves: Wealth, Leadership, and Historic Preservation*

10:45 am *American Women and Royal Marriages: New Jersey's Real-Life 'Lady Coras.'*

1:00 pm *Reclaiming Our Voice: New Jersey's Role in the Fight for Woman Suffrage.*

26: *African American Genealogy Research and Family Tree Maker*, MCGS, Eatontown, 2 pm