

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

Winter 2016

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2015-2016 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 Spring issue is March 4, 2016.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Debra Schiff, Section President

It's been a busy time in the History & Preservation Section, between needed additions to the Bylaws, reworking the About Us text (<http://njlamembers.org/content/about-history-and-preservation-section>), and making sure our voice is heard at the Board meetings. We also had an excellent Photograph Process Identification Workshop in early December (below image), at The Better Image in Milford, and a meeting and tour at Washington's Headquarters National Park in Morristown. We'll be taking a bit of a break until March, but we're planning an *Archives for Beginners* workshop at Rutgers, taught by Associate University Archivist Erika Gorder, as well as a Section meeting on a separate day.



Speaking about the About Us page and Bylaws additions, thank you to everyone who provided feedback in the creation of the text. It was heartening to have so many people participate and share their thoughts on who we are, where we work, what we do, and what our goals are. Thanks to

all of you for helping make the History & Preservation Section a lively, collegial, and welcoming professional society.

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SILVER POLISHED

Submitted by Sara Weissman, Acorn Hall Volunteer

When, last summer, the Morris County Historical Society was given 83 years of Crane-Hone family silver for Acorn Hall, the Society's historic house museum, cataloguing was followed immediately by a lot of research into care. How best to clean, protect and preserve pieces that represented five generations of the family who'd occupied the Hall and that ranged from an 1820 coin silver spoon (Downing and Phelps, Newark) to a half dozen plated fruit knives, hideously purple with tarnish? An 1847 set is the first silver design stamped front and back, for which the silversmith received U.S. design patents 149 and 150 (image).

Several staff training manuals ca. 1850-1870 were reviewed, to see how the silver would have been cleaned originally. (Rather harshly, by and large.) Then a range of museum guidelines were investigated: the Smithsonian, Victoria and Albert, Henry Ford, Winterthur among them. Some recommended making one's own polish slurry (calcium carbonate, denatured alcohol and distilled water) but that was rejected as not feasible for either volunteer cleaners and/or the large number of pieces being treated.

About commercial polishes there were conflicting recommendations, so the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets) were pulled for each, to check on chemical contents. Two companies provided the

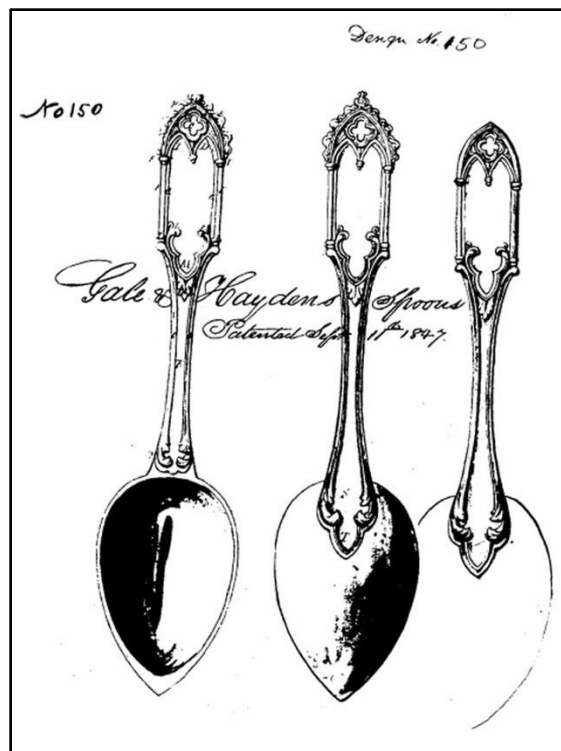
safety data sheets in their web sites, two other MSDS were on the open Internet, a fifth was sent by the manufacturer, within 36 hours of request. In one case the manufacturer had issued two MSDS in five years because ammonia had been added to the product between 2008 and 2013.

The final, current rating of acceptable silver polishes for the Morris County Historical Society,

mildest to stronger, are: Twinkle, Goddard Foam, Town Talk Foam. Twinkle, which is simply china clay (kaolin), does require scrubbing and/or multiple passes to clean an object so may not be appropriate for fragile items. Goddard Foam is effective for regularly maintained silver, Town Talk best for cleaning tarnished silver in a single pass. Both Hagertys and Wrights (foam preferred for each) contain ammonia in their latest formulations, so while effective polishes, they

will not be used at Acorn Hall. Though ammonia, in the form of hartshorn, was in 18th to 19th- century polishing compounds, as the Boston MFA puts it in their CAMEO database entry for brass polish, "Ammoniated cleaners are not recommended for museum objects."

Once cleaned, the cased silver was stored with 3M anti-tarnish strips and non-food display items are being treated with Renaissance Wax to prolong the time between cleanings--because the best preservation of silver is the least polishing possible.



LONG BRANCH FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES 100 YEARS!

Submitted by Janet Birckhead, Senior Librarian

The Long Branch Free Public Library celebrates its hundredth anniversary as a municipal library this year. The main library began as a private subscription library, as did the Elberon Branch. What is now the main library was founded as the East Long Branch Reading Room and Library Association in 1878. According to the July 26, 1916, issue of the *Long Branch Daily Record*, the Association deeded the library to the City of Long Branch, with the qualification that it would be used for library purposes. It has been a municipal library ever since. In 1992, the Elberon Library Association agreed to sell the Elberon Library to the city for the nominal sum of \$1.00. It became the Elberon Branch of the city's public library.

The Centennial Committee, consisting of staff and interested members of the community, has come

up with a list of programs. At least one program is being planned for each month. The Centennial kicks off on Thursday, January 28, with a program on the history of Carnegie Libraries. This program will take place in the main library's Community Room, beginning at 7:00 pm. Eleonora Dubicki, Assoc. Librarian at Monmouth University Library, will speak.

The library is planning a local emphasis for our February Black History Month program. We are hoping that Walter Greason will speak, but this has not yet been confirmed. For Women's History Month in March, the library is planning a program on Annie Oakley and her connection to Long Branch. The speaker has not yet been selected. The celebration will continue throughout the year.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER NEWS

Section member, Gary Saretzky announced that he just received a grant from the Peter E. Palmquist Memorial Fund for Historical Photographic Research, a fund of the Humboldt Area Foundation in Bayside, CA, for a research project on Nineteenth-Century New Jersey Women Photographers. Congratulations, Gary!

NEWS FROM NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Tom Anker, Librarian

In December, the Newark Public Library acquired the archive of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee. The NPLC is an independent, volunteer-run nonprofit that works to preserve historic sites in the city. Since its founding in 1974, the NPLC has helped get state and national landmark status for more than 70 buildings and districts in Newark.

On January 19, the Newark Public Library is scheduled to open "Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal," an exhibit marking the 350th anniversary of the city's founding. It will feature photos, maps, and other items from the library's

collections, as well as artifacts borrowed from private collectors. Thomas Anker curated the exhibit. It is made possible by funding from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Also to mark the city's anniversary, the Newark Public Library will sponsor "Newark Lifetimes," a

series of public talks by notable Newarkers. The talks will take place throughout the year at the Main Library on 5 Washington Street. Local author and historian Guy Sterling will conduct the conversations. The first talk will coincide with the opening of the exhibit on January 19, and will feature cardiac surgeon Victor Parsonnet and

retired bank executive Donald Karp.

In February, the Newark Public Library will open a Black History Month exhibit highlighting the Krueger-Scott oral history archive. The Krueger-Scott interviews, conducted in the 1990s, document the movement of African Americans

to Newark during the Great Migration. The exhibit is being curated by Samantha Boardman of Rutgers University-Newark.

Image: Downtown Newark in 1957, courtesy of the Newark Public Library.



NEWS FROM THE NORTH JERSEY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian

Two sizable boxes of papers and letters of Lewis Pierson, a Morristown carriage manufacturer and dealer at the turn of the 19th century, were donated to the NJH&GC in November.

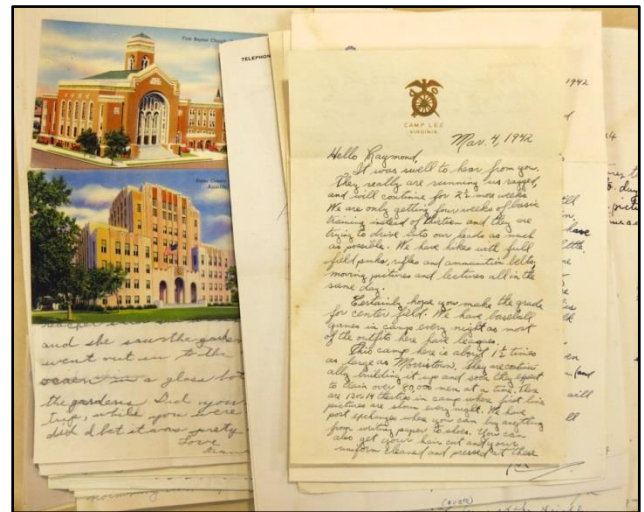
For many years The North Jersey History & Genealogy Center has owned several volumes of the ***Business ledgers of Lewis Pierson, manufacturer and dealer in carriages, sleighs, etc., Morristown, N.J., 1845-1903***, but this donation of his personal and business papers gives tremendous detail and understanding of his carriage business in Morristown. Pierson, a lifelong Morristown resident, saved literature and correspondence from suppliers throughout the United States, such as leather, railing, upholstery, rubber, and wheel companies, as well as literature from other carriage manufacturers.



He also saved letters from customers; one of these notes is from the illustrator, A.B. Frost, from Convent Station, who inquired about coming to view a particular carriage.

The donation also includes Pierson's personal letters, papers of his daughters Julia and Ella, and some other families, as well as pamphlets, posters, advertisements, and other business ephemera.

Another donation in December is from the DiChiara family of Morristown - an interesting collection of handwritten WW2 correspondence between family members. Some letters detail life in various Army units during the war.



Since September of 2014, the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center has regularly contributed history articles to the MorristownGreen.com, a local online news organization. In addition to providing in-depth reporting about local issues, breaking news and Greater Morristown culture, the Morristown Green successfully integrates community partnerships and individual contributions.

Our local history articles with the Morristown Green have a wide reach, with thousands of readers and an avid following on Facebook and Twitter. The articles have been well received by the community. The collaboration was mentioned in "The Local Fix," a project of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation's Local News Lab.

You can view the history articles here: <http://morristowngreen.com/author/northjerseyhistoryandgenealogycenter/>.

MARAC FALL CONFERENCE 2015

Submitted by Laura M. Poll, New Jersey Caucus Chair

Moving Mountains: Ingenuity and Innovation in Archives was the theme of the Fall 2015 meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in Roanoke, October 7-10. Held at the historic Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center, the meeting focused on topics such as collaborating and outreach, making use of new technologies, mentoring new archivists and learning from them, and addressing new preservation needs. Over 400 archivists were in attendance. The Hotel was built in 1882, the same year that Roanoke was established, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The workshops on Thursday included digital data and digital encoding, project management, preservation of born-digital and hybrid collections, and advocating for archives.

There was a walking tour of historic downtown Roanoke and a local breweries tour, as well as tours of the Booker T. Washington National Monument, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest, and the Lexington Archives. The Lexington Archives included stops at the George C. Marshall Museum & Library on the campus of the Virginia Military Institute, Washington and Lee University Special Collections, and Lee Chapel, another national historic landmark.

Friday is the big day of the conference, filled with sessions and discussions. Plenary speaker Ed Summers of the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, spoke about

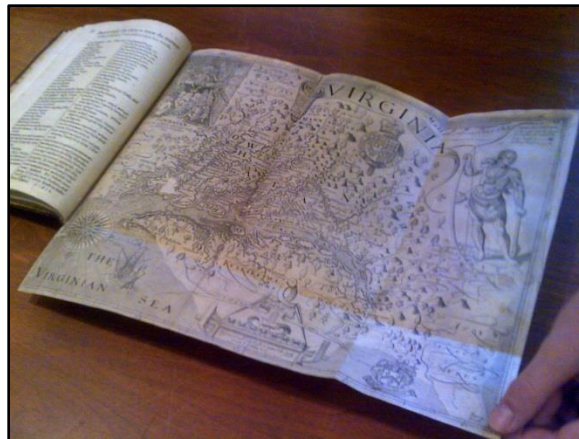
"Archives on the Web and the Web in Archives: Conundrums and Opportunities." He is the Lead Software Developer at MITH at the University of Maryland, College Park, but is also a librarian. He spoke about the lessons learned as both a software developer and a librarian, and his work with *code4lib*, a volunteer-run group of programmers who work for and with libraries, archives and cultural heritage institutions.

Sessions included such topics as digital acquisitions and donor relations, the history and handling of magnetic tape formats, creating

touchscreen exhibits, the pros and cons of minimal processing, transfer of born-digital records when employees leave, building databases for specialized research, and alternative career paths for archivists.

"Learning Together: Our Collaborative Path toward Sustainability" focused on

collaboration, a topic that is becoming more and more popular as researchers expect more resources to be available to them. The Keystone Library Network of Pennsylvania and the Lancaster County Digitization Project were discussed as two examples of successful projects. Panelists talked about how productivity has increased and how smaller repositories can get started with similar collaborations. Attendees broke off into small groups to discuss various scenarios and what steps could be taken to resolve an issue by using collaboration, such as what to do when a



Smith's History of Virginia, 1627.
Photo courtesy of Laura Poll.

small repository has 750,000 names in a genealogical card file that needs to be better accessible to the public, deteriorating newspapers that need to be digitized but there are no funds available, and what to do when once prospective collaborations are stalled.

Something new for MARAC were two Saturday “unsessions.” These are meant to be spontaneous discussions that are participant-driven forums on whatever topic participants wish to discuss. Conference attendees had the opportunity a month before the meeting to post brief proposals. One of the sessions was a discussion of Creative Commons licenses and the evolving archival description standards. Others were a metadata workshop about how

to describe, in seven minutes or less, secondary trauma when working with records that document war, violence or other stressful topics, and encoded archival context.

The next meeting will be held in Pittsburgh, April 14-16, 2016. For more information about MARAC, please go to the website: www.marac.info. Consider becoming a member, but even if you aren't, check out the New Jersey Caucus's Facebook Group page that anyone can join to learn about upcoming events, workshops, and activities of the repositories throughout the state: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/814182725289902/>

MARAC NEW JERSEY CAUCUS GATHERING & TOUR OF THE RUTGERS RECORDS CENTER

Thursday, January 21, 2016, 4-6pm / Snow date: Tuesday, January 26th
7 Kilmer Road, Edison, N.J.

Join us as we tour Rutgers University's nearly 90,000 square-foot refurbished state-of-the-art centralized records storage facility near the Livingston campus. We will get a behind-the-scenes tour from Stephen Dalina, Assistant Director of Business and Administrative Services, who oversees Rutgers' records management services.

We'll gather for light refreshments and a very brief business meeting (if necessary) at 4 pm, then have the tour at 4:30. Afterwards, we'll go to dinner at a local eatery recommended by the host, for those who would like to stay and join us. For more details, contact Laura Poll 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

I can't offer any books about books, bibliophiles, or libraries this month, but everywhere you look there is a "Best Book" list, most of which are unreadable. Out of the 135 books I read in 2015, these were my favorites:

FICTION:	Haruf, Kent	Our Souls at Night
	Hoffman, Alice	The Marriage of Opposites
	Nguyen, Viet Thanh	The Sympathizer
SUSPENSE:	Beaton, M.C.	Death of a Liar
	Lovesey, Peter	Down Among the Dead Men
	Parks, Brad.	The Fraud
	Stroby, Wallace	The Devil's Share
	Unger, Lisa.	Crazy Love You
NON-FICTION:		
	Bedell Smith, Sally	Elizabeth the Queen (2012 pub.)
	Cadbury, Deborah	Princes at War
	Fischer, Paul	A Kim Jong-Il Production
	Grissom, James	Follies of God

As a longtime fan of Haruki Murakami, I finally caught up with all of his novels, and I highly recommend *Kafka on the Shore* and *Wild Sheep Chase*. Fans of Margaret Atwood (*The Heart Goes Last*) and John Irving (*Avenue of Mysteries*), will enjoy their latest novels, although they were not peak achievements. The new novel by Kate Atkinson (*A God in Ruins*) was disappointing, and Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* was disappointingly average. The new novel by Judy Blume (*In the Unlikely Event*) was awful.

Happy Reading in 2016!

NJLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, H&P Section Vice President

The NJLA Conference Committee has announced the approved program proposals for the 2016 NJLA Conference in Atlantic City. They encourage members to re-submit proposals that were not accepted for 2016 to the 2017 conference committee next fall.

The proposals from the History & Preservation Section that have been accepted are:

Municipal Records in Public Libraries - Tuesday, May 17, 11:30 am to 12:20 pm

Fundamentals of Preservation Care - Tuesday, May 17, 4:10 to 5:00 pm

New Jersey Authors Speak - Wednesday, May 18, 11:30 am to 12:20 pm

Starting from Scratch: The Challenges and Triumphs in Creating a Local History Collection - Wednesday, May 18, 11:30 am to 12:20 pm

Keeping Up With Copyright to Protect Your Library - Wednesday, May 18, 2:30 to 3:20 pm

Yes, Our Collections Have Been Digitized: How Lyrasis' Digitization Collaborative Gets "Hidden" Collections Online – VIRTUAL (pending speaker confirmation)



HAVE YOU LIKED OUR FACEBOOK PAGE YET?

Danny Klein, the new Web Site Coordinator, has been posting lots of interesting articles and updates.

Keep up with and share the latest news in NJ history and preservation! <https://www.facebook.com/NJLAHP/>

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

January 2016

Long Branch Public Library

January 28 – 7 pm / *History of Carnegie Libraries* with Eleonora Dubicki in the Library's Community Room.

Manville Public Library (SCLS)

January 30 – 2 to 4 pm / PBS *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* documentary Episode 6, "Peril and Promise."
A viewing of the episode followed by a discussion led by Carl Lindskoog, Ph.D. – Instructor of History, Raritan Valley Community College. The program will be in the Community Room.

MARAC NJ Caucus Meeting

January 21 – 4 to 6 pm / Meeting and tour of Rutgers Research Center at 7 Kilmer Road in Edison.

Newark Public Library

January 19 / *Newark at 350: Settlement, Growth, Renewal* exhibit opens

Plainfield Public Library

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

February 2016

Plainfield Public Library

February 6 – 1 pm / *Freedom Stories*. Storyteller Tahira will offer a compelling look at the men and women who took extraordinary risks for freedom. Tahira also includes songs such as "John the Rabbit", which contained coded messages used by enslaved Africans to devise a plan of escape. This program is for all ages in the Anne Louise Davis Room.

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

March 2016

Bound Brook Memorial Library

March 24 – 7 to 8 pm / *Postcards from the Edge of Somerset County*. Mary Nelson, Local History Librarian, will present an historic postcard slideshow and commentary on Bound Brook and vicinity. Postcards will cover Bound Brook area businesses, industries, historic sites, schools, houses of worship and residential areas. The program will be in Finlayson Room A.

Plainfield Public Library

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