

# The Chronicle



NEWJERSEY  
Library Association

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

Spring 2017

Volume 18, Number 4

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To submit articles, news or  
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email Colleen Goode, newsletter  
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[cgoode@theoceancountylibrary.org](mailto:cgoode@theoceancountylibrary.org). Please send images  
to accompany the text.

**The submission deadline for the  
Summer issue is June 26, 2017.**

## EDITOR'S NOTE

By Sarah Hull, Editor

Spring Greetings! I wanted to take a moment to tell you all how much I have appreciated the opportunity to work on *The Chronicle* these past five years. It has been a delightful challenge, each quarter, and one that I will not soon forget. What it is has not been, however, is the accomplishment of one person. Each newsletter exists as the culmination of the creativity and effort of MANY people: all of you who write and submit articles and updates, and of course those who actually take the time to read (and hopefully enjoy) each issue. Thank you! On top of this, there have been two special people without whom these newsletters would not have been possible, namely Jane Thoner and Sandra Gurshman, both librarians here with me in Plainfield Public Library's Local History, Genealogy & Special Collections Department.

Jane and Sandy have given their time as proofreaders on each issue. They always caught all the little (and sometimes big) errors that I missed as I put the newsletters together. Jane in particular would painstakingly check grammar rules and punctuation options for hyphens, brackets, and ellipses... sometimes correcting my own editorial corrections. I am truly thankful to (and for) you both.

So, I now pass the virtual red pen to Colleen Goode, incoming editor, starting with the Summer issue in July. Please continue to submit news about your collections, programs, and exhibits. And don't forget to send pics!

Most sincerely,  
Sarah

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Carolyn Dorsey, Section President

I want to send out a big “Thank You” to everyone who has contributed so much to the various activities and events with our group this year.

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Anna Klose Hrubes and Richetta Wilson Lobban, our new members-at-large, and Colleen Goode, who will be taking over as our newsletter editor.

For the 2016/2017 year, thanks to:

- Vice President Tom Ankner, for the first-rate programs you put together at the 2017 conference and for organizing and promoting everything perfectly. The programs were so informative and well attended.
- Past President Deb Schiff, for all the work you did on the awards committee.
- Secretary Ken Kaufman, your meeting notes are always excellent and greatly appreciated.
- C.E. coordinator Paul Martinez, you arranged a fine program last fall on digitization that benefitted many people.
- Newsletter editor Sarah Hull, you have done a beautiful job with the newsletter.
- Danny Klein, for the terrific job you do getting the word out about our group on social media.
- Conference committee member Jessica Myers, for such a great job organizing the New Jersey authors’ program at the conference.
- Members-at-large Nancy Madasci and Colleen Goode, you helped the group substantially this year.
- Sarah Hull, for hosting our book repair workshop.
- Member-at-large Tim Corlis, for your useful and informative program with Erika Gorder introducing archival arrangement and collections care for NJLA members that helped many people who are new to archives and preservation.
- All committee members who helped make awards and by-laws decisions.
- Those who stepped up and offered to fill various positions for the coming year.
- Archivist Gary Saretzky, for maintaining our group’s records. And congratulations to Sarah Hull for your Susan Swartzburg award; you deserve it. You've done so much to promote preservation and history appreciation in our state.

Everyone contributed so much, whether as organizers or speakers, or behind-the-scenes advisors. (You know who you are!)

This group wouldn’t be the same without each and every one of you!

– Carolyn, President, History & Preservation section, NJLA



# NJLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE HISTORY & PRESERVATION SECTION RECAP

Submitted by Tom Ankner, Section Vice President

At this year's New Jersey Library Association conference, the History & Preservation section sponsored four programs:

## *Historic Maps In Public Libraries*

Tuesday, April 25

**Attendees:** 23

**Moderator:** Daniel Klein, Jersey City Free Public Library (below photo, left)

**Panelists:** John Beekman, Jersey City Free Public Library; Debra Schiff, Chester Library



This session focused on the uses of historic maps in reference work at public libraries. Beekman (above photo, right), of the New Jersey Room of the Jersey City Free Public Library, offered an eloquent argument for collecting maps, as both reference tools and artifacts. He used numerous examples of maps found online and in the collection of the Jersey City Free Public Library to support his argument. [Read more about this lecture on page 11]

Schiff (above photo, center) detailed the steps taken to preserve a historic map in the collection of the Chester Library, where she is the local history librarian. The 1860 topographical map of New Jersey had been rolled up in a corner of the Chester Library for at least 30 years when Schiff was appointed to her position. After doing research and acquiring

funding, she was able to send the large wall map off to the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia for restoration. It now hangs on a wall in the Library, framed and behind protective glass.

## *Bringing History to Life: History Programming and Exhibits*

Tuesday, April 25

**Attendees:** 37

**Moderator:** Thomas Ankner, The Newark Public Library (below photo, right)

**Panelists:** Carol Simon Levin, Somerset County Library System; George Robb, Professor, William Paterson University



This session focused on different types of programming libraries can use to illustrate and educate patrons about history.

Levin (above photo, center), a youth services librarian in the Somerset County Library System, is also a historic reenactor. She came in costume as Ann Baumgartner Carl, the only American woman to test-fly experimental planes during World War II. She used images from Carl's life and women pilots during World War II to tell a story from history that is not often heard.

Robb (above photo, left), the curator of *Over Here: Newark in World War I* at the Newark Public Library, used images from his exhibit to illustrate how

### *NJLA Conference continued*

librarians could use available materials to bring history to life for their patrons. He showed that many of his images came from newspaper microfilm or items found online.

### *Look What I Found in the Attic!: Organizing an Archival Collection*

Wednesday, April 26

**Attendees:** 28

**Moderator:** Sarah Hull, Plainfield Public Library

**Panelists:** Yesenia Lopez, the Newark Public Library  
Laura Poll, Trenton Free Public Library  
Sarah Kiefer, Ridgewood Public Library



With this program, the History & Preservation section offered guidance for people managing different kinds of archives in different kinds of institutions.

Yesenia Lopez (above photo, right), archivist in the New Jersey Hispanic Research & Information Center (HRIC) at the Newark Public Library, helped found the archive she now manages. Lopez detailed the steps taken in establishing the HRIC, which included traveling to and surveying institutions around the state over a period of four years. Once the survey was completed came the creation of a map of available resources, then the struggle to gain funding, gather resources, and begin accessioning. Lopez advised the use of volunteers, and the keeping of inventories to maintain control of materials already held.

Poll (above photo, left), hired to manage the Trentoniana collection in 2015, is the first trained

archivist to run a collection set up in 1909. As such, she was tasked with imposing order and organization on a department that lacked both. She advised the establishment of a collection policy to limit acquisitions to a manageable size and provide guidance in collecting only relevant materials. She also dealt with a situation in which materials were stored in acidic, non-archival boxes; and arranged in chronological, rather than subject, order. She has created a shelf inventory, and focused her organizing on materials asked for most frequently.

Kiefer (left photo, center) manages the Bolger Heritage Center for Genealogy and Local History at the Ridgewood Public Library. Her small collection is paper-based, and focuses primarily on the town of Ridgewood. Kiefer praised the partnership established with the Genealogical Society of Bergen County, which has allowed her to take advantage of volunteers from the organization for indexing and inventory projects. She showed screen grabs from the PastPerfect system set up to maintain inventory of the collection.

### *NJ Authors Speak*

Wednesday, April 26

**Attendees:** 27

**Moderator:** Jessica Myers, Historical Society of Bloomfield

**Panelists:** David Veasey, *New Jersey's Colonial Architecture Told in 100 Buildings*;  
Joseph A. Grabas, *Owning New Jersey*;  
Paul G. E. Clemens, *Rutgers Since 1945*

This year's authors program focused on three very different books, and three different styles of program presentation.

Veasey brought pictures of several of the buildings featured in his book. The photos, each mounted on foam board, illustrated different styles of colonial architecture. From English and Dutch colonial architecture, to architecture with Quaker and

*NJLA Conference continued*

German roots, Veasey showed through pictures how each style differed from the other.

Grabas, retired from the land title research business, extolled the value of land and probate records for studying history. Land records, in particular, have been important in the development of New Jersey, he said. He used several examples from his book and his Master's thesis about land ownership by African Americans in New Jersey to tell stories illustrating this.

Clemens, a professor of history at Rutgers, has written a history of the university since 1945. His

book, he said, focuses on students at the university. He told a story of a female faculty member who started at Rutgers in 1959, and changed women's basketball in New Jersey by encouraging young women and girls to play competitively and by less restrictive rules. His book also covers the McCarthy era and the campus unrest of the 1960s, as well as other events from the end of World War II to the present.

[Photos courtesy of Nancy Madasci and Carolyn Dorsey; some photo editing by Sarah Hull]



*History & Preservation Section Member Photograph, courtesy of Emily Witkowski.*

# CONNECTING LOCAL HISTORY WITH A WIDER AUDIENCE

Submitted by Randall Marsola, Senior Network Librarian, South Brunswick Public Library

Getting the word out about a local history collection can be a challenge, but I wanted the Library's archive to reach a wider audience. I found this was possible through creative use of social media and local newspapers, and hosting the town's historical society.

South Brunswick Public Library has a sizable local history collection consisting of local newspapers both in print and digitized form, as well as a number of historic photographs and documents.

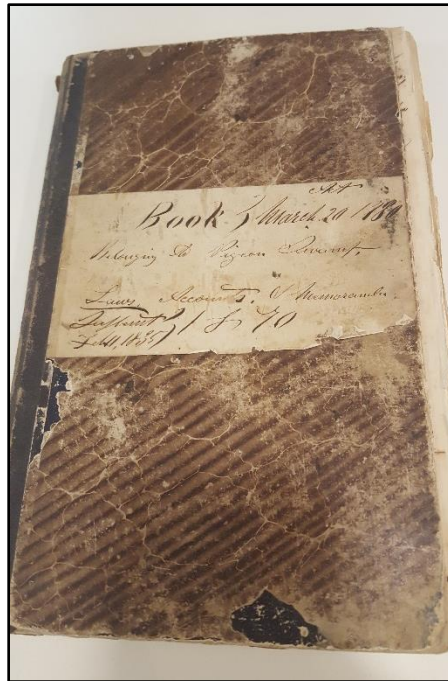
In 2014, I began *Throwback Thursday* Facebook posts that feature our historic photographs and a few explanatory sentences. These posts were well received by the public and often have the most views and "likes" on our page. By broadcasting our local history on Facebook we are connecting to a larger audience that hadn't been actively engaging with the Library. I also share our historical Facebook posts with our local paper, the *South Brunswick Sentinel*. By sharing Facebook posts with the local print newspaper, we are reaching both the modern online audience and the traditional newspaper audience. Recently, a local college student noticed our history posts and volunteered to serve as an intern to work with the archives. She is identifying historic figures and events in our archive and writing short biographies about them. Often we have photographic material that can accompany the biography that will make an interesting social media post, a Library display, and

can become part of the history section of our webpage.

Noticing the interest in local history, I "revived" the South Brunswick Historical Society that was formed in the 1970s and disbanded sometime in the early 1990s. The Historical Society meets once a month and has about eleven members. The members

identified projects, such as creating a local history calendar highlighting vintage photographs and town history. The SBHS has also bandied about the idea of a town tour of historic houses, cemetery walks and other events that can include the wider community. One of the members of the historical society has taken on the task of indexing one of the only books written about South Brunswick called *Fertile Fields*. This will make future local history research much easier.

The Library has recently been awarded a grant to preserve and digitize the Pigeon Swamp Ledger (photo). The



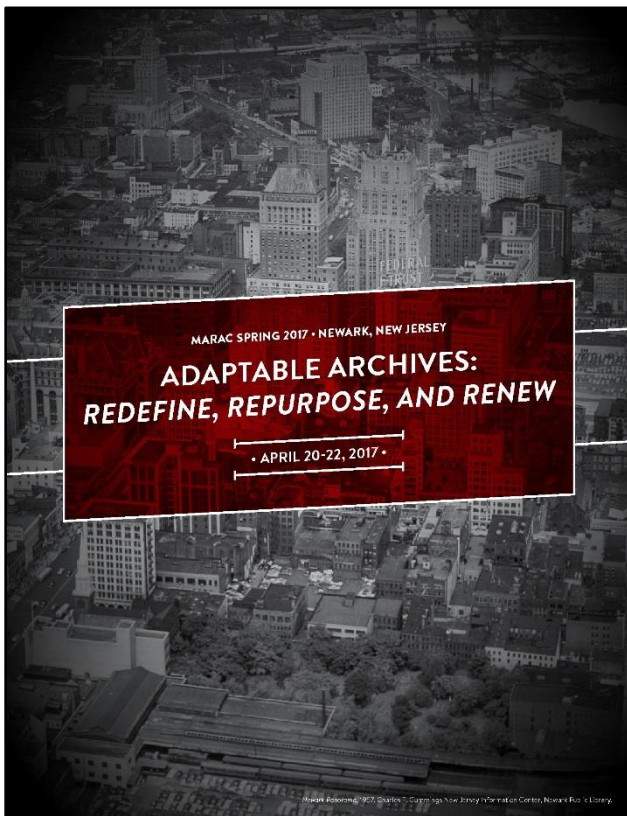
Pigeon Swamp Ledger is a historic South Brunswick document that dates to the 1780s. It contains the signatures of several prominent people and accounting records from the 18th century. The Pigeon Swamp is a 1,078-acre state park. Many people in town are unaware of the park's existence. When the Pigeon Swamp Ledger is preserved and digitized, we can share it with the community through the social media channels that have been established.

These efforts have provided new opportunities to share our collections with a larger audience, and find new avenues for preservation and promotion.

## MARAC SPRING 2017 IN NEWARK, N.J.

Submitted by Deb Schiff, Local History Librarian, Chester Library

The Spring 2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference in Newark, N.J. had this for a theme: *Adaptable Archives: Redefine, Repurpose, and Renew*. From the sessions I attended on Friday, it appears that the theme is well on the minds of many in the field.



### Plenary

For the plenary, MARAC requested Dr. David Kirsch, associate professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland. His topic centered on the records of failed entrepreneurial ventures, specifically those of Silicon Valley start-ups. He rightly asserted that business records are at risk, due mainly to the litigiousness of society. I remember when I worked at IEEE, over a decade ago, annual data shredding events would occur throughout the company.

What company can afford the physical space to save all that paper, as well as server space to save (and, more costly, people to maintain) the electronic records? The end product is a history of American business that is spotty at best, and is told by those who kept their archives rather than deleting them. Or, in the case of Kirsch and his colleagues at Sherwood Partners, history will be told by failed Silicon Valley companies and those who supported them. Sherwood Partners swoop in and claim selected data from failed companies (doing what we archivists call appraisal), work with the Library of Congress for subject headings, and eventually move the records to the Hagley Museum. One of the aspects of this concept that bothers me is that Kirsch said they only take the text files. His example was that they found an organizational chart in a text file. What if that was in a GIF or a JPEG file? It is my opinion that they miss out on the context of their record collection by only choosing text. Moving on....

### *Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative (Session S4)*

During the beginning of this session on the Empire State Library Network's Empire Archival Discovery Cooperative (ADC), session chair Deirdre Joyce of the Central New York Library Resources Council reminded the attendees that the ADC was born out of a New York Caucus meeting at a MARAC in 2010. I'd attended that meeting – sometimes I attend other state caucuses because I'm interested in what stuff is happening in other states – and I've been following this project ever since. The speakers were Jen Palmentiero of the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, Laura Streett of Vassar College, and Greg Wiederman of the University of Albany, SUNY. Another speaker, whom it would have been very useful to have, didn't make it. That was Ethan Gruber of the American Numismatic Society. He's the

### *MARAC Spring 2017 continued*

incredibly talented developer of the EADitor for finding aids, which is an integral part of the ADC website.

Overall, the session was a very helpful explanation of the history of the project, its importance to the New York archival community and surrounding region, issues they encountered, and the current state of the project. It's pretty exciting to hear that after all of the work put toward ADC, there are now approximately 1000 finding aids on the system that had been harvested by Ethan (via GitHub) in the last week. Even more relevant to all of the small historical societies is that the beta release allows them to use a relatively simple interface to create DACS-compliant finding aids via the EADitor. The object of the project is to allow previously "hidden" collections to become findable, and it looks like it's much more cooked now. Those of us in N.J. should be thinking about using this good work as a model.

### *We Like to Move It, Move It: Renovating Special Collections Facilities (Session S8)*

The session chair, Katy Rawdon of Temple University, first introduced Elizabeth Beckman of George Mason University, who focused on what it was like to move to a new facility on the same grounds, and some of the challenges she encountered. She said that likely the biggest challenge was that she had not double checked in person the measurements of the shelves with regard to the number of document cases they would hold. She ended up with a top shelf that was about a third of the height she would need to hold the boxes, and that presented a numbering/labeling issue that required some shifting afterward. I felt for her as she described it. "Measure twice, cut once," they say.

Next, Bruce Hulse of the Washington Research Library Consortium, a group of nine universities in the D.C. area, spoke about his experience expanding their off-site shelving solution over several iterations.

He detailed his process of working with the contractors in the planning and construction phase, most recently to expand the space by about 30 percent. He also spoke about measures he took to bring down energy costs that had dramatically increased with the new construction.

Finally, Katy introduced Karin Suni of the Free Library of Philadelphia, who spoke about moving the theater and rare book collections. She provided many helpful tips including document the whole process with many photographs, make lists, be patient because planning can take several years, communicate the types and sizes of materials to movers, and take lots of notes at all of the meetings (and there will be many) prior to and during the move.

### *Radical Honesty in Descriptive Practice (S13)*

This session was one where you could hear a pin drop. I sat with my friend from Penn State Behrend in Erie, Jane Ingold, and listened to speakers Michael Andrec of the Ukrainian Historical and Educational Center of New Jersey, Christiana Dobrzynski of Bryn Mawr College, and Sam Winn of Virginia Tech cover some pretty heavy ground about what we can do as archivists to improve the way we not only populate our materials, but more importantly, describe them. I am all about honesty in description. You might remember a few years ago the torment I experienced when trying to describe the records of the Superfund site in Chester. The speakers weren't going over that kind of ground, though, and I was more intrigued by that session than by many others I have attended over the years.

A couple of years ago during a NJ Caucus meeting, I had visited Michael at the Ukrainian Center (it's local to my home) and seen some of the collections that described the horrors experienced by the Ukrainian people. It was a stark reminder of what populations of immigrants have endured in order to experience religious and personal freedom.



*MARAC Spring 2017 continued*

Christiana spoke at length about the type of erasures faced by Black and LGBTQ Bryn Mawr students in terms of the lack of documentation and institutional racism. I was very impressed by the way she engaged with students and inspired them to write new descriptions that acknowledged the previous descriptive practices. She also worked with underrepresented communities to obtain donations and have students of those communities create the language for the finding aids.

Finally, Sam Winn used many quotes (that I wish I had to share with you, and I hope she makes her slides public so that I can link to them here\*) to talk about how we, the predominantly white mostly female group, need to do much more to ensure that

we do better about making our collections reflect the diversity in our communities. Her point could be applied to where I work – Chester is an overwhelmingly white area, but there have been families of color who have lived and who do live in the area. I need to do more to show that in our collections. I need to seek out members of the Chester LGBTQ community so that they are represented, as well.

[\*Read more on Deb’s wonderful blog “Here and There” at: <http://hereandthere123.blogspot.com/>

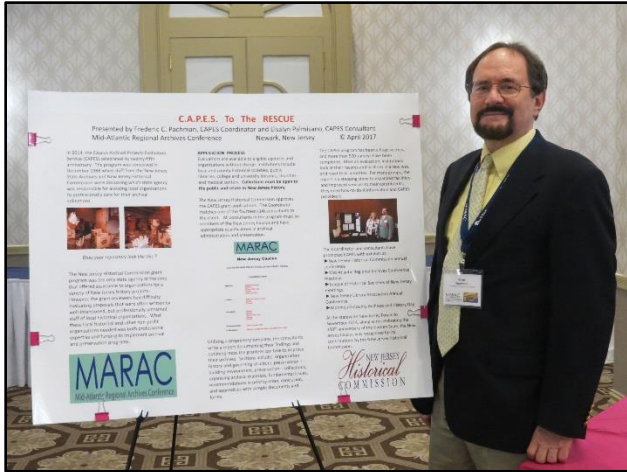
Image: Conference Program image, page 7, courtesy of MARAC. postcard image, below, courtesy of Laura Poll]



# MARAC NEWARK 2017 POSTER SESSIONS

Submitted by Frederic Pachman, CAPES Coordinator and  
Elsalyn Palmisano, Archival Consultant

## *C.A.P.E.S. to the Rescue in New Jersey*



Since 1989, the New Jersey Caucus of MARAC, in partnership with the New Jersey Historical Commission, has offered Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (C.A.P.E.S.) surveys to more than 500 schools, churches, colleges, historical societies, public libraries and medical centers. Collections must be open to the public and relate to New Jersey history. Utilizing a proprietary template the following topics are reviewed: environmental conditions of the overall facility and storage rooms, fire and security protection, the proper housing and shelving of materials, budget and history of the institution, arrangement and description of the materials, and development of policies and procedures. This poster shows how C.A.P.E.S. has assisted institutions across the Garden State to better care for their archival collections.

## *Development of an Archive at Monmouth Medical Center*

Monmouth Medical Center, founded in 1887, was the first hospital at the Jersey Shore. Over the past thirty years, there was a limited effort to develop archival and historical collections that document this rich history. In conjunction with the medical center's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012, this consultant was retained to evaluate the archive, develop operational policies, and prepare exhibits. Public programs and exhibits about the medical center have been presented to state and local organizations,



and a schedule of historical programs is offered in-house during National Hospital Week. The archival collections were actively used to celebrate the medical center's anniversary, and continue to be utilized for promotional activities, preparation of reports, and programming.

# MAPS BEYOND THE BOX!

Submitted by John Beekman, Jersey City Free Public Library

The 2017 NJLA Conference theme was “Beyond the Box.” For a panel presentation, the H&P section allowed me to speak a bit about one of the favorite parts of my job, doing reference work with our historic map collection. In addition to some specifics about map genres and how I use them (and a bit of “show and tell”), I included some thoughts on the practice of local history reference work. Taking the theme of “Beyond the Box” as encouragement to get our special collections out of their boxes and drawers and into the presence (and even the hands!) of our patrons.

In my ten plus years of practice, I have noticed the draw of our maps to walk-ins who find our department by chance. This is both because of the aesthetic appeal of individual maps as works of art, with effective use of line, shape and color to draw the eye in, but also of the mystique of the historical artifact, the draw of large atlas volumes with heavy pages bulging out of a map case, suggestive of the age of exploration. Maps are a pure expression of giving order to the unknown.

The walk-in browsing patron, engaged by a map on display, or an atlas case with an open volume on top, or materials on the table for processing or left from a previous use, is an opportunity for contact. I sometimes feel like a car salesman eyeing potential customers on the shop floor, using my experience to gauge the potential for fuller engagement, for providing a service they may not be aware they are looking for.

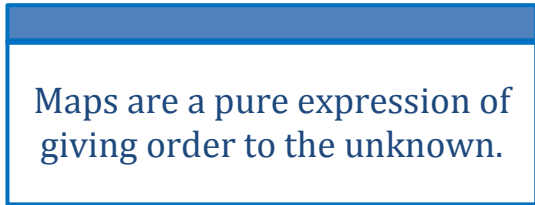
A local history collection exists to tell the story of a place. It cannot exist without the collection,

organization, and preservation of materials, but I would also stress that a value we bring as stewards of our collection is encouraging use, and for the public library especially that can be more than simply providing materials on demand for researchers. An effective public library local history librarian can also help break down the wall of intimidating mystification that can be a by-product of our professional practices. Just as we may use a display or exhibit to tell a story, we can also take the time to help our patrons find the stories that speak to and for them as individuals. I have found maps to be a

great hook to start that process.

Our historic maps, as well as photographs, books, documents and ephemera, have a visceral draw for many members of the public. These

items speak to a particular view of what a library is, and the value of these documents creates an aura of mystique that elevates our practice, bringing the process of history into the present in a tangible form. Our careful preservation and descriptive practices speak to how conscious we are of the responsibility entailed in our stewardship of these powerful items. At the same time, however, our role as steward and gatekeeper must be paired with a willingness to help patrons engage with materials, to deepen the initial aesthetic appreciation with guidance on how to draw out the stories our collections can tell. As Milton put it in a related context, “I cannot praise a fugitive and cloistered virtue, unexercised and unbreathed, that never sallies out and sees her adversary.” So, too, we do a disservice to our collections if we hesitate to take them out of the drawers and folders, out of the box, if you will, to allow those who employ us as caretakers to fully experience their history.



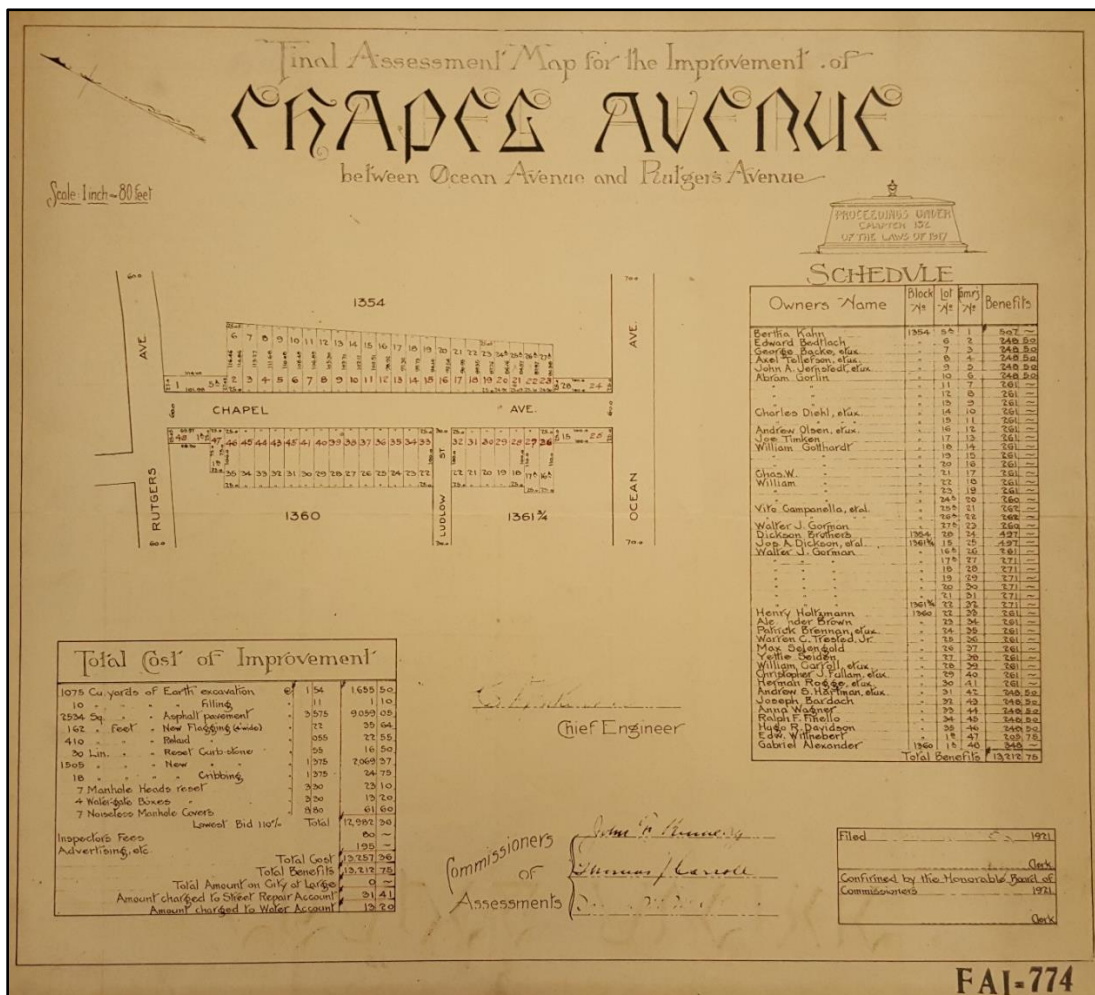
Maps are a pure expression of giving order to the unknown.

*Maps Beyond The Box continued*

Often I, as a patron or visitor to a library, feel intimidated by the closed map case – even if it is not protected (as it often is) by a lock or bar. I make it a point in our department to help visitors who are drawn to our materials to interact, to let them know that it is OK to look through drawers, to ask questions and handle materials. To remind myself, as well as them, that they are not outsiders from whom I must protect “my” collection, but rather the owners of the materials who have entrusted me with stewardship. It seems to me that if we want to engage our community through collecting local history and dedicating some of our professional time to its practice, we need to apply the principle of “to every reader their book” to our documents as well.

A librarian’s service to their community includes knowing the collection, as well as the online sources that relate to the subject area. “I was Googling all day and couldn’t find anything” – that is the start of a response to a successful reference interaction. Acquire that knowledge and SHARE. Spend time helping patrons discover the use of material. Tell the story (if the patron is open). Be the value added. Organization, preservation, and description are essential – but interaction is more visible and will create positive memories. Those feelings of goodwill will benefit our institutions when the time comes for the public to consider their funding priorities, but above and beyond that – it is simply what we do.

*Image: "Assessment Map for section of Chapel Avenue between Ocean Avenue and Rutgers Avenue, 1921" - from a collection discovered by a city employee and brought to the Library for preservation.*



## SUSAN G. SWARTZBURG PRESERVATION AWARD

Submitted by Jessica M. Myers, Historical Society of Bloomfield

Hats Off To Sarah! This year Sarah Hull received the Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award!



*Jessica Myers, Sarah Hull, and Deb Schiff (Awards Committee Chair).*

As many of you know, the Susan G. Swartzburg Award recognizes a New Jersey Library Association member who has made, over a substantial number of years, exceptional contributions to the awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of archival and library materials in New Jersey. The award honors the memory of the Rutgers Preservation Librarian whose leadership in New Jersey inspired and influenced many others in our profession, particularly in the areas of preservation and book arts.

I would like to share parts of my nomination for her.

Sarah Hull, Head of Local History, Genealogy, and Special Collections at Plainfield Public Library, has been dedicated to writing, teaching, and spreading the word about the history and preservation of archives.

As Editor, Sarah developed upon the original print *Chronicle*, the newsletter of the History & Preservation Section. She created it into a timely, educational, and fascinating resource for all of us

who deal with preservation, conservation, and exhibition of archives, libraries, and history collections. The newsletter became so successful in our section that Michele Stricker requested that it be put as a link on both the NJLA and State Library webpages so that professionals who might not be members of the History and Preservation Section could share ideas.

She has built on Plainfield's Local History and Special Collections and leaves her imprint there. She has rebuilt a lovely website that is easy to navigate, full of information, exhibitions and instructions. It has become a destination and resource to find information on state history, genealogy, rare books, art, and preservation.

Sarah is a creative leader of a very strong staff. She is an excellent teacher, good speaker, and a great problem solver. When challenged to do two things at once she usually manages to do both things beautifully. On a normal day, she can write a grant, find a fascinating fact in a police log, solve a problem for a patron, house a scrapbook, write an essay for the *Chronicle*, lead a class for other librarians and the public off-site, and then, in the last hour of the day return, to begin to hang an exhibit.

She, together with other Plainfield Public Library Staff, runs educational programs for a variety of organizations throughout the state. These cover many topics from beginning lessons in how to handle a small collection, how to rescue damaged material, how to write grants, how to plan and execute exhibitions, how to handle a digital project and how to manage the beginning of archives for born-digital material.

We look forward to many more years of success. Our hats off to Sarah for spreading the word!

## NEWS FROM NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Submitted by Tom Ankner, Librarian, Charles F. Cummings NJ Information Center

The Newark Public Library (NPL) has been busily working on a large digitization project made possible through a \$1 million grant from the Carnegie Corporation. The grant calls for digitizing materials that can be used to create a curriculum dealing with the Great Migration of African Americans and the Latino immigration experience.



*Dick Gregory, Larrie West Stalks, Junius Williams,  
and Jim Florio.*

Our digital collections can be found here:  
<http://cdm17229.contentdm.oclc.org/>

To learn more about the curriculum project, called My Newark Story, go here:  
<http://npl.org/mynewarkstory/>

In other NPL news, we welcomed a new director earlier this year. Jeffrey Trzeciak began work on February 27th. Trzeciak was most recently the University Librarian at Washington University in St. Louis. He previously worked for the Dayton Public Library and Wright State University in Ohio, as well as Wayne State University in Detroit.

***Over Here: Newark in World War I, 1917-1918***, is an exhibit that will be on view at the Library until the end of the year. The exhibit was curated by Newark

resident George Robb, a professor at William Paterson University. Robb used images from the collections of the Library, including a number of World War I posters originally collected by John Cotton Dana, a legendary director at the Library in the early 20th century. *Over Here* is in our third floor gallery.

In May, the Newark Public Library will unveil a new exhibit of photographs featured in the publications of journalist Tiny Prince. Over a 50-year period beginning in the 1940s, Prince covered issues and events of interest to the African American community in and around Newark. The photos on display will feature entertainers, politicians, and other public officials, as well as common Newarkers at work and play. Prince's daughter donated a large collection of materials to the Newark Public Library after her father's death in 2015. The Tiny Prince exhibit will be on view in our second floor gallery until the summer.

In June and July, the Library will use its first floor gallery to mark the 50th anniversary of the Newark Rebellion, also known as "the riots." The events of July 1967 were a seminal moment in Newark and New Jersey history. The Library is collaborating with local lawyer, academic, and civil rights leader Junius Williams to mark the occasion. Williams, who lived in Newark in 1967, has started a website, [riseupnewark.com](http://riseupnewark.com), which includes a section on the Rebellion of 1967. The Newark Public Library will include images and video from Williams' site, as well as images from its own collection, in telling the story of the rebellion from the standpoints of several people in the city that summer.

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

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian

*Called to Serve: Morristown & Morris Township in WWI* On exhibit until August 14, 2017



In honor of the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into World War I, The North Jersey History & Genealogy Center presents an exhibit from our Library's collection of family papers, scrapbooks, newspaper articles, photographs, maps, and World War I Propaganda posters. The exhibit will be on display from April 5 to August 14, 2017, in the F.M. Kirby Gallery on the second floor of the Library.

On April 6, 1917, the United States formally entered WWI by declaring war on Germany. By the summer of 1917, communities around the country were mobilizing human and financial resources in support of the Allied war effort. The photos and stories told here in newspaper headlines, obituaries, images, ephemera and letters provide a small glimpse into one such community.

A pilot's diary, correspondence of firefighters to their friends back at the fire station, a letter of a mother who lost her son, and first-hand battle descriptions by African American soldiers reveal the personal and

human side of a community that was deeply affected by the war.

Also see our online article about two Morris County men who served with the Harlem Hellfighters, the famed African American unit, available here: <https://morristowngreen.com/2017/02/17/wwi-heroes-two-morristown-men-won-medals-with-harlem-hellfighters-famed-african-american-unit/>

*Lecture Series: New Jersey at Home and in the Trenches During World War I*  
Sunday, May 21, 2017, at 2:00 pm

Joseph Bilby, a New Jersey native and Vietnam veteran, will talk about the state's role in World War I, including the election of Woodrow Wilson, the Black Tom Island and Kingsland Explosions, war production in the state, home front support, training and mobilization camps in New Jersey, submarines along the coast, and New Jersey soldiers in France.



*Sea Girt B Company*

Bilby is the author of numerous New Jersey history books, including *A Hidden History of New Jersey at War*, *A History of Submarine Warfare along the Jersey Shore*, and most recently, *New Jersey: A Military History*. This is a free event and will be held in the Lower Level Meeting Room of the Library.

*Morristown continued*

***Lecture on New Jersey's Major World War I Monuments***

June 4, 2017, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Historian and preservation advocate, Erik L. Burro, will talk about New Jersey's major World War I monuments. Mr. Burro recently completed a photographic survey of all of New Jersey's major WWI Memorials: a collection representing many of the most highly regarded sculptors of the post-War years. These public works range from doughboy soldiers to allegorical figures placed in a variety of settings, all dedicated to local veterans of America's Forgotten War. Combined, they express loss, honor, gratitude, patriotism, and remembrance. Some are a glimpse of war and our military; others represent the ideals and aspirations of the nation.



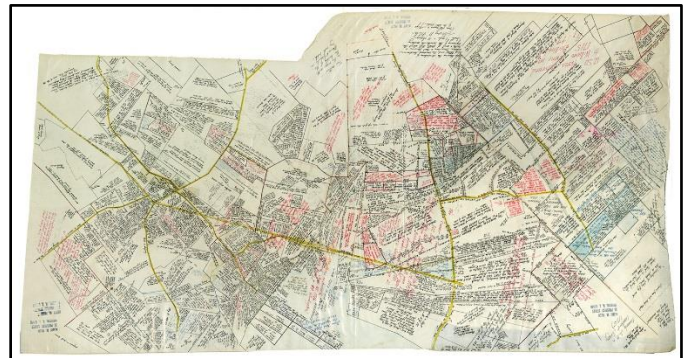
*World War I Memorial in Morristown  
by Frederick Curtiss, 1928*

*(Right) Deed map of Morristown by Henry Pilch, towards Hanover, showing land parcels and owners, based on information taken from land records.*

New Jersey, a small state, has an enviable number of these major works. Some have been neglected, vandalized or forgotten. Mr. Burro's revelations of our Garden State legacy during America's WWI Centennial years (2017-2019) promises to increase appreciation of our past and encourage restoration efforts that assure their importance to future generations. This is a free event and will be held in the Lower Level Meeting Room of the Library.

***Map Cataloging***

Cataloging continues for maps in the NJH&GC, many that were created or collected by Henry Pilch, (1905-1988), who donated an exceptional collection of books, maps, surveys, deeds, and other research material and notes to the Library several years ago. Mr. Pilch, from Madison, New Jersey, was an attorney who spent many years in land title and road survey work in Morris County. He was a member of the Morris County Heritage Commission and other historical societies in New Jersey. The precise and thoroughly researched deed maps of various Morris county municipalities feature 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century land parcels and landowners over time. Most of Mr. Pilch's maps were cataloged several years ago but some remain, and we plan to have the project completed soon.



*The Morristown & Morris Township Library is located at 1 Miller Road in Morristown.*



## WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

### Member Updates from Across New Jersey

#### **Monmouth County Archives** – submitted by Gary D. Saretzky, Archivist



Preservation Day was held at the Monmouth County Library on April 26th, cosponsored by the Library and the Monmouth County Archives. County Archivist Gary D. Saretzky gave a 1.5 hour lecture on “Preserving Family Photographs” and demonstrated how to make an enclosure for a half-plate daguerreotype from an archival file folder (photo). The Archives staff provided complimentary scanning and digital restoration using PhotoShop for members of the public.

Monmouth County has an exciting week planned for its annual Archives Week celebration in October. More than 60 history-related organizations (archives, libraries with local history collections, government agencies, historical societies, etc.) are expected to participate with exhibits at Archives and History Day on October 14th when an estimated 300 attendees will join in the fun. If you would like a registration packet (registration form, preliminary program, list of Archives Week events, awards and nomination forms) sent to you by email, please request one from Shelagh Reilly at [Shelagh.reilly@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:Shelagh.reilly@co.monmouth.nj.us). Exhibit tables reserved until they are all taken. Registration only required for exhibitors, not for attendees. Attendance at all events is free.

#### **New Brunswick Free Public Library** – submitted by E. K. Adams

The New Brunswick Free Public Library in conjunction with the New Brunswick African American Heritage Committee will be hosting a classic movie series of African American films on Monday nights at the Library in June on the 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. The movies will start at 6 pm and light refreshments will be served. The movies are in the process of being chosen. You may check our website at [nbfpl.org](http://nbfpl.org), call the Library at 732-745-5108 x20, or contact Kim Adams at [ekad1947@lmaxac.org](mailto:ekad1947@lmaxac.org). The movie choices should be available by May 16th. All programs at the Library are free and open to the public.

We will also be hosting a series of art workshops taught by Joyce Browning, retired art teacher and former gallery owner. They will be on Tuesday nights 6 to 8:30 pm at the Library July 11th to August 8th. Participants will be able to try different media and themes each week. Call the Library to reserve a spot since space is limited. It is not necessary to join all classes. Info. as above.

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



In celebration of National Card and Letter Writing Month (April 1 to May 14, 2017), the Plainfield Public Library is displaying selected items from its historical collections of photographs, postcards, and personal papers & manuscripts: ***Put A Stamp On It!***

The exhibit features rare letters, including the notable John Quincy Adams 1838 letter and a special fundraising letter written by Col. Mason W. Tyler to his grandfather, Joseph W. Sandford, in support of the city's first public library in 1886. In addition are Civil War letters from Vail family and correspondence from Dorothea Dix and Reina Lawrence. The letters are interspersed with historical photographs, ephemera, artifacts, and realia – both part of the Library's collection and on loan.

In conjunction with the fun and educational exhibit, the Library held two *Letter Writing & Decorating* programs. Attendees selected from an assortment of fun stationery, then wrote and embellished their letters. The Library stamped and mailed all the letters. Attendees also received a free Plainfield Public Library pen!

The *Put A Stamp On It!* exhibit will be on display in the lobby through the end of May.