

# The Chronicle



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

Summer 2016

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## 2016-2017 H&P Section Executive Board

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Tim Corlis  
Colleen Goode  
Nancy Madacsi

### **Ex Officio:**

Laura Poll,  
MARAC NJ Caucus  
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To submit articles, news or  
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email Sarah Hull, newsletter  
editor, at [sarah.hull@plfdpl.info](mailto:sarah.hull@plfdpl.info).  
Please send images  
to accompany the text.

**The submission deadline for the  
Fall issue is Sept. 24, 2016.**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By Carolyn Dorsey, Section President

I'm honored to be a part of the History and Preservation section and look forward to the opportunity to continue the progress our group has made. As I begin my duties as president, I appreciate the need for continuity as well as new ideas. Our group will carry on with the excellent initiatives of those who previously served in this position.

### **Collaboration**

Much of what we accomplish in libraries is the result of collaboration and partnerships. I look forward to working together with other sections within NJLA and related organizations outside of NJLA.

### **Education and Programming**

During the past year, the H&P section continued to do a great job of promoting excellence and expertise in all aspects of history and preservation topics in New Jersey. Our group has become known for organizing and offering quality educational programs to our members as well as to those outside our immediate sphere. In addition to our educational programs we had several well-attended programs at NJLA with many co-sponsors.

I'm looking forward to 2016/17!

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## THE LITTLE MUSEUM THAT COULD

Submitted by Susan Fogg Eisdorfer, MLIS, PLCGS, SCHS Archivist

Many people are aware that 2015 was a very difficult year for the **Somerset County Historical Society**. We describe it as the period during which that proverbial rascal Murphy arrived and decided upon making an extended visit. Just prior to the flooding event that kicked off the entire crisis, our long-time resident caretaker, Hank Smith, retired and moved to new quarters. The question we were then pondering was, "What should we do with the four-room apartment he vacated?"

Our board considered all of the possibilities and opted to turn the two ground-floor rooms into museum space, while retaining the two upper floor rooms for work areas and storage. The main proponent of this idea was John Krasnansky who has served our society as a trustee for many years. He proposed that we authorize a young man seeking his Eagle Scout badge to take on the job as project manager. Upon review of the proposal and recognizing that the young man would have excellent access to all of the technical skills needed to lead such a project, the board agreed and the motion to accept the proposal was passed. Work began with a proposed opening date for the museum as the focus of our Annual Meeting scheduled for November 2015. However, Murphy had other plans.

The period of crisis beginning in January of 2015 began with water damage to our historic house and library. By the time Murphy finally decided to move on, we had also lost, at least temporarily, the services of several key people in our organization. Vice President Tom Buckingham shattered a shoulder when a ladder on which he was standing slid out from under him. He was working on the preservation of a historic house in Green Brook. He

has yet to rejoin us, but we remain hopeful, for we sorely miss his leadership.

Our second Historic Preservation Wounded Warrior turned out to be John Krasnansky. While on a routine run to do errands, he experienced a sudden bout of sneezing, lost control of the wheel and crashed into two parked cars. The injuries sustained were serious enough to result in an epic 101 in-patient care days. All work on the museum immediately ground to a halt as John's wife, SCHS trustee Joanne Krasnansky, the Eagle Scout candidate Zack Krasnansky (their grandson) and other family members focused on supporting John through this very unfortunate event with a then uncertain outcome.



As this writer has said in another article, "If people try to tell you that miracles don't happen, do not believe them!" Soon after finally being cleared to go home after his grueling ordeal, John started showing up again at Van Veghten House. Slowly, the project pulled itself together with all of the original players, plus a few more. The rooms were cleaned and freshly painted, and the display cabinets were built and installed. The two exhibits of Native American artifacts (above photo; some re-



constructed to show how they looked as working implements), and colonial wood working tools (photo above), actually used to build homes, barns and other structures in our county, were prepared and carefully assembled for display. Zack's entire Scout Troop 89 assisted throughout.

When it became clear that the museum could be made ready by the time of our Spring Meeting,

scheduled for May 15, 2016, every effort was made to help it happen. On that day, Somerset County Historical Society officially opened our museum with first, a formal presentation by Zack Krasnansky (right) detailing the development of his project, followed by tours of the museum and our historic ca. 1725 colonial Dutch farmhouse, which served as headquarters for General Nathanael Greene during the Revolution, and a good old American hot dog roast with all the trimmings. We hosted about sixty people in space that normally accommodates forty.

May 15 was truly a joyful day for all of us. Our house, library and museum are open to the public every Tuesday (except holidays) from noon to 3 pm every week and from noon to 3 pm every second Saturday of the month.



## MEET THE NEW H&P SECTION EXECUTIVE BOARD

### **President – Carolyn Dorsey, Morristown & Morris Township Public Library**



Carolyn Dorsey is a local history and genealogy librarian at the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center at the Morristown & Morris Township Library, specializing in cataloging, digitization and collection care.

### **Vice President/President-Elect – Tom Ankner, Newark Public Library**



Thomas Ankner has 25 years of experience as an information professional. After working as a circulation clerk at the Morristown & Morris Township Library, he received his MLS degree from Rutgers. He then began work at the Brooklyn Public Library in New York City, where he spent three years in the Telephone Reference division. Beginning in 1996, he spent 13 years in the private sector, working as a researcher at two of the leading national news media organizations, ABC News and USA TODAY. Since 2010, he has worked at the Newark Public Library, assisting patrons with local history and genealogy research in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center. He is secretary of the Newark Preservation and Landmarks Committee, past trustee of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey, and the founding vice president of the New Jersey chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

### **Secretary – Ken Kaufman, Somerset County Library System**



Ken Kaufman has been the New Jersey topics librarian at Somerset County Library for four years. A Philadelphia native, he earned a B.S. degree from Penn State University, an M.B.A. from St. Joseph's University, and an M.L.S. from Rutgers University. Following a decade in banking, Ken has been a librarian for 14 years, working in various reference and collection development capacities at Bridgewater and Old Bridge public libraries.

### **Members-at-Large –**

#### **Colleen Goode, Ocean County Library**

Colleen Goode is a reference librarian at the Toms River branch of the Ocean County Library. She is a member of the library's local history/genealogy team and digitization committee.

#### **Bruce Bardarik, Paterson Public Library**

Bruce Bardarik is currently the Local History Librarian of the Paterson Free Public Library. He has been there for 19 years. He has an M.L.S. from Rutgers - SCILS in 1994 and a B.A. in Psychology in 1988 from Glassboro State

College in 1988. He also took the Rutgers Preservation Management Institute's courses in 2003. He has previously served the H&P section as President, 2006 to 2007; Vice President, 2004 to 2006; and Secretary, 2003 to 2004.

#### **Nancy Madacsi, Sussex County Historical Society**

Nancy Madacsi is the retired director of the Taylor Library at Centenary College. During her library career she worked at the College of Saint Elizabeth, at M&M Mars and at the EPA. She has been active with the NJLA serving on the executive board as the Second Vice President, heading the Reference Sections and the History & Preservation Section. She remains active with the NJLA History and Preservation section. She engages in volunteer work, serving as a trustee with the Sussex County Historical Society, and as the Secretary/ Archivist at the Sparta Historical Society. She has taken up the hobby of photography and her work has appeared in national as well as local publications. She serves on the executive board of the Sparta Camera Club.

#### **Tim Corlis, Rutgers University**



Tim Corlis works as Head of Preservation for Rutgers University Libraries and Special Collections. He received the NJLA 2014 Susan G. Swartzburg Preservation Award in recognition of his statewide leadership and dedication to preservation or interpretation of archival, library, and historical materials.

## H&P SECTION MEETING

Our next meeting will be on **Monday, July 18 at 9:30 am** at the Trentoniana Room at the Trenton Public Library. Laura Poll generously arranged for us to meet there and has invited members the NJ Caucus of MARAC to join us for a presentation by Sarah Scott, who is currently an Historic Preservation Assistant at the NJ State Historic Preservation Office. Sarah's talk describes the materials at the HPO and gives an overview of the office. Visit the HPO website at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/hpo/>.

# NJLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016 RECAP

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, H&P Section President

As coordinator of the H&P programs at the New Jersey Library Association Conference in Atlantic City, I was busy running from room to room - but I was able to attend several presentations! Our programs were well attended and supported with co-sponsorship by other NJLA sections.

Deb Schiff moderated the pre-conference program, *Yes, Our Collections Have Been Digitized: How Lyrasis' Digitization Collaborative Gets "Hidden" Collections Online*. Laurie Gemmill Arp of Lyrasis and Paul Martinez, of Montclair University, discussed using a collaborative approach to digitization. Regrettably, we had just eight attendees. However, this was the first year NJLA offered virtual sessions, and the organization has learned that it must improve its outreach efforts in advance of these sessions. The virtual session is available for downloading:

<https://vimeo.com/170706897>; the password is "preconference."

## Tuesday May 17

Sarah Hull, of Plainfield Public Library, organized *Municipal Records in Public Libraries*, featuring Ellen Callahan from the New Jersey State Archives. Ellen discussed public access and retention requirements specific to these records, which can include everything from blueprints, tax logs, and other legal documents. This was an informative and well-attended program, and was co-sponsored by several other sections.

*The Fundamentals of Preservation* was presented by Kim Avagliano (center photo), from the

Monmouth County Library, and Deborah Mercer, of the NJ State Library. Kim demonstrated how to repair a book spine (I dutifully repaired two books the following week) and Deborah gave an excellent talk on the history of preservation and how to start and develop a preservation plan.

## Wednesday May 18

*Starting from Scratch: The Challenges & Triumphs in Creating a Local History Collection* was presented by:



Deb Schiff, Chester Library

Aimee Fernandez-Puente, Elizabeth Public Library

Marian Bauman, archivist

The speakers discussed documentation needed for a local history department, organizing and managing collections from scratch, materials from donors, and more. Deb focused specifically on creating the documentation needed to run a local history department, Aimee shared her experience of what

worked and what didn't work in building her collections, and Marian talked about what it was like to work in a local historical society's collections.

Jessica Myers organized the lively and informative program, *New Jersey Authors Speak*. The panel featured (page 7 photo):

Maxine N. Lurie, professor and historian

Richard P. Carlin, editor and writer

Richard Rockwell, historic preservationist



These distinguished non-fiction authors discussed their work and answered questions.

Greg Cram, J.D. (below photo), Associate Director of Copyright and Information Policy at the New York Public Library, presented *Keeping Up with Copyright to Protect Your Library* to a large audience. He discussed the current and future state of copyright law and its effect on libraries, and focused on copyright issues specific to special collections, digitization, and unpublished and archival materials.

Greg has represented the NYPL in advocating for better copyright policy and has testified before Congress and the United States Copyright Office.

He is also an adjunct professor teaching copyright at New York University and at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science.



The H&P Section congratulates **Bob Stewart** on receiving the *Susan G. Swartzburg Award*.

Created in 2003, the Swartzburg Award recognizes a New Jersey Library Association member who, over a substantial number of years, has made exceptional contributions to an awareness, understanding, and/or preservation of archival and library materials in New Jersey.

As a member of NJLA for nearly 50 years, Bob Stewart was a founding member of the H&P predecessor sections and Urban Libraries Section of NJLA. His work with the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference's New Jersey Caucus led to the creation of CAPES, a site survey offered to libraries and repositories free of charge, through MARAC and the New Jersey Historical Commission.



As a librarian and director, Stewart has been

*(L to R) Deb Schiff, Tim Corlis, Bob Stewart, Elsalyn Palmisno, and Fred Pachman.*

responsible for numerous microfilming projects and creating interesting local history collections, including the Springsteen Collection, now housed at Monmouth University. He was also instrumental in the creation of the Asbury Park Historical Society fifteen years ago and he continues his affiliation with that organization as they work to obtain and renovate the Stephen Crane House as the Society's home.

## **BOB STEWART RECEIVES THE SUSAN SWARTZBURG AWARD**

Submitted by Debra Schiff, H&P Section Past President

*The following text is Debra Schiff's award presentation speech during the awards reception at the NJLA Annual Conference on May 17, 2016, in Atlantic City, NJ.*

The Susan Swartzburg award is given in memory of a Rutgers preservation librarian whose leadership in New Jersey inspired and influenced many others in our profession, particularly in the areas of preservation, archives, and the book arts. She was an educator during the formative stages of library preservation and wrote three books, along with numerous publications on preservation of library materials.

Tonight, in honor of Susan's legacy, we recognize a remarkable librarian and library director who has built a comprehensive and impressive body of preservation work at several institutions. Bob Stewart, director of the Asbury Park Public Library since 1974, has maintained a continuous membership for nearly 49 years in NJLA. He was a founding member of our predecessors, the History and Bibliography Section and the Preservation Section. Additionally, he served in the Adult Services Section, and helped create the Urban Libraries Section. His service to the New Jersey library community is very deep, and I could spend another 10 minutes telling you about it, but I'd like to tell you specifically why he's receiving this award.

One of our sister organizations, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference includes a very active New Jersey Caucus. Bob's work in the caucus since the late 1980s led to the creation of the Caucus Archival Program Evaluation Service or CAPES. I'm a

CAPES consultant, and can tell you how important this service is to small organizations who cannot afford to hire full-time archivists, or even part-time ones to perform preservation needs assessments. It is such an important service that the State Historical Commission requires that organizations seeking funding for archival preservation activities must have a CAPES survey in order to qualify for the funding.

Bob's long-time colleagues would like to emphasize his dedication to preserving the primary source materials that constitute and enable history to be understood by researchers. His focus on the details that comprise best practices has made his numerous microfilming projects notable success stories.

He has written many, many grants, including those for very large collaborative projects with other libraries such as Morristown and Township, New Brunswick, Atlantic City, Newark, and Gloucester County Historical Society. Some of the resources that have been microfilmed under his direction include hundreds of city directories, daily and weekly newspapers, high school yearbooks, postcards, photographs, and the notable Springsteen Collection.

From the beginning of his career, in 1967, when he headed the local history department at the Jersey City Public Library, Bob's contributions to the preservation of New Jersey's historical resources cannot be overstated. On behalf of NJLA's History & Preservation Section, I am honored to give Bob Stewart the 2016 Susan Swartzburg award.



# ARCHIVES & HISTORY DAY AND ARCHIVES WEEK AT MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY

Submitted by Gary Saretzky, County Archivist

Registration is now available for Archives and History Day on **October 8**. This annual event, which began in 1996, regularly draws about 300 history enthusiasts. Some of the sixty-two tables are still available for history-related exhibitors such as local history collections at libraries, archives, and historical societies. No registration or fee is required to attend.

In connection with these public events, the Monmouth County Archives is preparing an exhibit on the history of transportation in Monmouth

County to go on view at the beginning of October. The Archives recently was awarded Second Prize for Booklets for its last exhibit catalog, New Jersey in Focus: The WWI Era, 1910-1920, from the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. That catalog is available online at <http://co.monmouth.nj.us/page.aspx?ID=1678>

Reserve your table now before they are gone by contacting [shelagh.reilly@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:shelagh.reilly@co.monmouth.nj.us) and requesting a registration packet.

**The program schedule is as follows:**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
8:45-9:45	Morning Refreshments
9:00-5:00	Exhibit: <i>History of Transportation in Monmouth County</i>
9:00-5:00	New Jersey History Room: Local and State History Reference Books
9:00-3:00	Exhibit Tables: Archives and History Organizations
9:50-10:00	Color Guard, Pledge of Allegiance. Greetings from Renee B. Swartz, Monmouth County Library Commission
10:15-10:50	<i>Called to Duty, a film produced for Monmouth Battlefield State Park about Civil War recruiting, the 14<sup>th</sup> NJ Volunteer Infantry, and Camp Vredenburg.</i>
11:15-Noon	<i>Plenary Session:</i> Greetings from Monmouth County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon Awards Presentations
12:10-12:55	History Forum: <i>Discussion of History of Transportation</i> Conducted by Monmouth County Historian Randall Gabrielan with Featured Speaker Paul W. Schopp. ( <i>Attendees may bring lunch to the Forum</i> )
1:00-2:00	Featured Speaker: Paul W. Schopp, "The Rusted Tail of The Blue Comet"
2:00	New Jersey history game prize drawings
2:15 – 2:45	Tour of the Monmouth County Archives (registration required)
3:00	Exhibit tables close



*Laura Poll, Maxine Lurie, Ron Becker (recipient of the McDonough Award), and Gary Saretzky at last year's Archives & History Day. Photo by Fred Packman.*

### Other Archives Week History Programs at the Monmouth County Library

#### **October 4-6, 2016**

Tuesday, October 4, 2 pm: Movie (Transportation-related)

Wednesday, October 5, 9:30 to 11:45 am: Lecture: George Joynson, Monmouth County Archives, "History of Aviation in Monmouth County."

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

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

# MORRIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Submitted by Sara Weissman

The Morris County Historical Society at Acorn Hall has lately inventoried the 324 volumes in August Crane's 1860 book collection and restored an early 20th century doctor's bag which had developed red rot.



The books, housed in a massive rosewood, glass-doored, full-wall bookcase (photo), were in the main in excellent shape, having been little touched since about 1930. Only the youngest son's schoolbooks, including his 1879 Stevens Institute grammar, gave signs of having been roughed up - so it was not surprising to learn he had dropped out of school. The oldest item in the collection was Salmon's *New Geographical Grammar* (London, 1760), the most handsome - Owen Biddle's *Young carpenter's assistant* (Philadelphia, 1817) and the most Jersey an 1820 *Compendium of Arithmetic* published by Newark Academy, authored by Academy faculty member James Smith. A date ordered list was generated from the inventory spreadsheet for docent use, while leading tours.

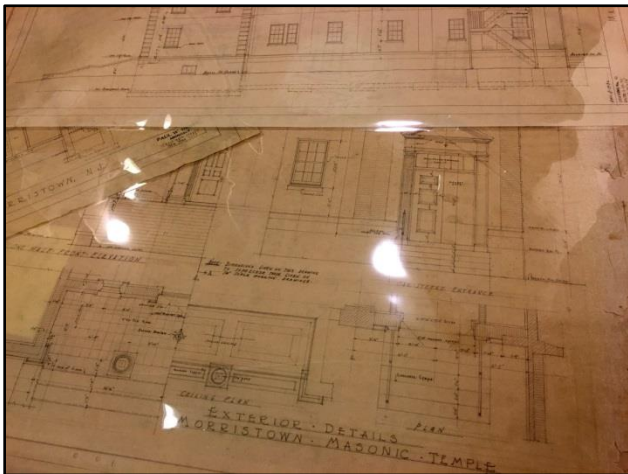
On display in the same room is a pre-1920 "Statler" medical bag from the New Process Co. of Warren, Pennsylvania. Cowhide, almost certainly vegetable tanned, it had clearly been exposed to coal heating and needed cleaning and stabilizing. A quick and effective surface cleaning of the 19" x 10" x 11" bag was done with a "soot sponge," brass hardware cleaned with Renaissance wax and the bag treated with Cellugel which, as advertised, dried quickly and did not change the color of the leather.

# NORTH JERSEY HISTORY & GENEALOGY CENTER

Submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian,  
Morristown & Morris Township Public Library

## *Morristown Masonic Temple Plans, ca. 1930*

One of our patrons happened to be visiting an architectural firm that was throwing away hundreds of old architectural plans. He was able to rescue a group of drawings for the Masonic Temple in Morristown, and recently donated them to our library. This group of tightly rolled and fragile onionskin sheets was flattened and encapsulated.



*Conserved plans for Morristown Masonic Temple, ca. 1930.*

The Masonic Temple building was designed by architect Paul W. Drake, a New Jersey resident who had offices in New York City.



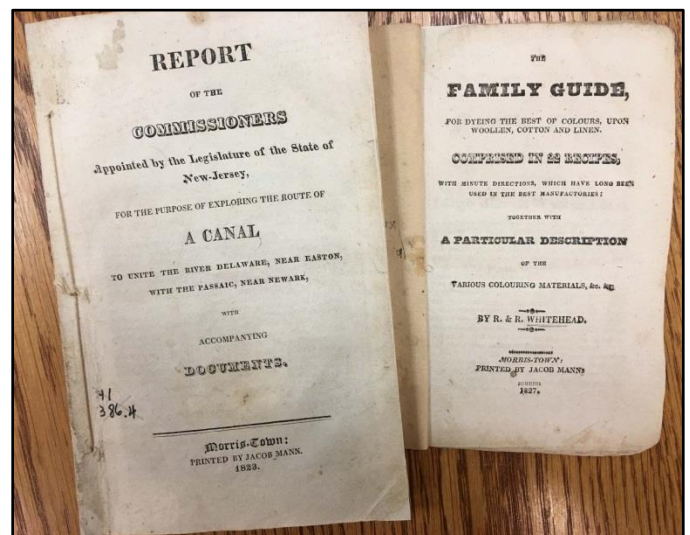
*Interior of Morristown Masonic Temple, 1931*

## *Morristown Imprints, 1798-1886*

The Morristown Imprints collection at the North Jersey History and Genealogy Center was recently conserved and cataloged. The collection includes tracts, sermons, poems, household recipes, children's literature, legislation, as well as a pamphlet that describes the notorious trial and execution of Antoine Leblanc.

In *A History of Morris County, New Jersey: Embracing Upwards of Two Centuries*, published in 1914, Henry Cooper Pitney wrote:

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Morristown achieved considerable importance for the number of books there published, Jacob Mann, Henry P. Russell, and Peter A. Johnson being the leaders..."



The above pamphlets were published and printed by Jacob Mann. Mann also published the newspaper, *The Palladium of Liberty* from 1808 to 1832.

*June Programs at the MMTPL: Protecting Natural and Historic Places*

**Preserving the American Country House** was a well-



attended program by Mark Alan Hewitt about the problem of preserving both houses and their surrounding garden and farm landscapes. Many large estates, such as Natirar and Blairsdon, have been subject to poor or inadequate conservation strategies. Case studies included both New Jersey and national examples.

Mark Alan Hewitt, Architect, Historian, and Preservationist, is the author of six books and many articles about American architecture and preservation. He served as president of the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms for several years and has been a member of several local historic preservation commissions.

**Dating Historic Buildings** was a popular lecture about deciphering the architectural past. Our speaker, Margaret Westfield, Architect and Preservation Consultant, discussed the many tools she uses in estimating the age of houses.



Westfield is a historic architect who focuses on the preservation and rehabilitation of historic buildings, and the design of new construction within historic contexts. Past projects include Lucy the Elephant, Trinity Church in Woodbridge, and the preservation of several period farmhouses, churches, and one-room schools. She now serves as Vice-Chair of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

These programs were part of a series entitled *Protecting Natural and Historic Places* presented by the library and the Morris County Trust for Historic Preservation.

Two more programs are scheduled for July:

*Mid-Century Modernism and the Recent Past Debate* on Thursday, July 14, 2016

*What Are Historic Preservation Commissions All About?* on Thursday, July 21, 2016

For more information visit the website [http://www.jfpl.org/polNews.cfm?doctype\\_code=News&doc\\_id=3987](http://www.jfpl.org/polNews.cfm?doctype_code=News&doc_id=3987)

# SPRING MARAC, APRIL 14-16, 2016

Submitted by Debra Schiff, H&P Section Past President,  
Local History Librarian, Chester Library

*This piece is reprinted with permission from Deb's blog, "Here and There": <http://hereandthere123.blogspot.com/2016/05/spring-marac-april-14-16-2016.html>*

As always, the Spring Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, held in downtown Pittsburgh, PA, provided a great deal of bang for the buck. Attendees were favored with excellent weather, a fine conference hotel, and a lively location with plenty to see and do. It's hard to say what was the best part of this most recent MARAC, but I'll share the highlights of my experience with you.

## The Plenary

Many of us are familiar with the plenary speaker, David Carmichael, State Archivist of Pennsylvania and former State Archivist of Georgia. He spoke on the conference theme, *Archival Confluence* (Pittsburgh is where three major rivers meet), as we as archivists are "at the confluence of past and future." The thrust of his message was "What value does our repository create, and how do we measure and articulate that value?" The answer is through the stories of use and value to our patrons. What are the key record series that our patrons cannot live without? He spoke about using metrics to demonstrate our value. Many of us do this through counting patrons, tabulating hours spent on reference work, etc. He also suggested using surveying tools to expose the economic impact of our collections and institutions.



What he has learned through his work is that the value of what we do is not self-evident. We have to believe we have value to add. How do we communicate what the value is? He said that it's about who benefits directly by our work. Additionally, we have to collect the stories and data – what can be measured and is it meaningful? We need to be able to draw the line to the value that the story delivers. Finally, his last, but key message was that because the "urgent gets in the way of the important," we need to talk about why we do what we do, not just what we do.

## Sessions I Attended

### *Culture in Transit (CIT): Digitizing and Democratizing NYC's Cultural Heritage*

CIT is a grant-funded partnership between the

Metropolitan New York Library Council, Brooklyn Public Library, and Queens Library. They use the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) as a platform for the materials created at community digitization events. These scan-a-thons (my term) aren't just about getting grandma's scrapbook online. The CIT team members help the donors with licensing, creation of metadata, and most importantly, the contextualization of the materials.

The speakers, Maggie Schreiner of Queens Library, Sarah Quick from Brooklyn Public Library, and Caroline Catchpole of the Metropolitan New York Library Council, emphasized the need for a great deal of planning and outreach, especially media

planning, to ensure success. Friends of Libraries groups also were used to raise awareness of scanning events. One of the patron groups turned their oral histories into podcasts as a class project. Overall, the session provided great examples of how to create, host, and publicize small-scale digitization services to the community that also help the library.

### ***“Scope Drift” and the Changing Role of the Archivist***

The speakers here represented a varied group of archives, including The Abraham Lincoln Foundation of The Union League of Philadelphia (Theresa Altieri), University of Baltimore (Ben Blake), Maryland State Archives (Maria A. Day), Eastern State Penitentiary (Erica Harman), and Seton Hall University (Amanda Mita). In addition to sharing their individual experiences with jobs that became nearly completely different than what they’d originally signed on to do, the speakers shared some very practical tips. Here are just a few:

1. Recognize things out of your control.
2. Prioritize your time and resources.
3. Focus on the things you can control (e.g., mission, collecting scope, preservation, job description, etc.).
4. Be assertive, diplomatically.
5. Challenge the business perspective (i.e., expectations of revenue generation).
6. Get the appropriate access you need to accomplish your goals.

Hearing about the massive challenges these folks face/faced in their work and how they approached them was inspiring, to say the least.

### ***The Duchamp Research Portal: Moving an Idea to Proof of Concept***

This fascinating session was a rarity in that it focused on a single, international project that involves four different organizations. The speakers



*Ben Blake of the University of Baltimore from the session “Scope Drift.”*

were Susan K. Anderson, Philadelphia Museum of Art; Christiana J. Dobrzynski, Deadalus Foundation; Matt Shoemaker, Temple University; and Deborah Wythe, Brooklyn Museum. Funded by an NEH Preservation and Access grant, the end result of the project will be an online research portal for the artist Marcel Duchamp. The session focused on the 18-month effort to research and plan for a very complex collaboration between archivists, curators, IT professionals, and other museum team members. Add in the additional levels of complexity in that the IT team is in France and requires French translation, copyrights aren’t the same in the U.S. as they are in the E.U., the metadata to be collected differed for each organization, and the collections of Duchamp pieces had to be inventoried at each institution. Subsequently, the group published a gigantic white paper which will be included in their implementation grant proposal. It’s going to be quite something when it’s finished, and I can’t wait to hear the rest of the story.

### ***If You Give a Kid a Document: Bringing K-12 Students into the Archives***

In this session, the speakers talked about the successes they had with kids interacting in a very hands-on way with the materials in their collections. The speakers, Kira A. Dietz of Virginia Tech, Stephen

Ammidown of the Gilman School, and Melanie Meyers of The Center for Jewish History focused on specific experiences, whether they were connected to a given event or collection. Getting the kids to share their observations about an object or record was of specific importance, especially in the effort to bring a new understanding about what is “old.” All of the speakers had good tips, but the ones that stood out for me were:

1. Keep groups small, especially if you are limited as far as staff is concerned.
2. Keep to 15 minutes of talking – 5 minutes on what I do, 5 minutes on what we have, and 5 minutes on what they could do with the materials.
3. Be prepared for the unexpected.
4. Expect troublemakers, and have extra hands available to deal with them.
5. Engage with teachers.
6. Be clear about the teachers’ goals.
7. Don’t underestimate the kids.
8. Know your limitations – they might know more than you do on lots of different topics.
9. Create an opportunity for the kids that they wouldn’t ordinarily have.
10. Create a photo contest for kids who take pictures of materials.

### *The End of Archival Adventures in Small Repositories: HCI-PSAR Findings and Methodologies*

For this last session, I was very interested in learning the details on the Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories project that just came to a close (2011-2016). The speakers were Jack McCarthy, Anastasia Matijkiw, and Sarah Leu of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Focused on private non-profit, volunteer-run history organizations, the project sought to bring to light (in a digital sense) collections that had not been adequately described in finding aids. The project also did a great deal to bring archival and preservation training to groups on a monthly basis. The end result was the development of an assessment tool that includes information on collection condition, housing, physical organization, intellectual organization, and research value (developed by the HSP previously). Conference attendees participated in exercises to determine how they would survey collections. It was highly educational.

While I’m conferenced-out for the year (recently participated in NJLA, too), I’m already looking forward to next spring’s MARAC, this time in Newark, N.J. It should be a blast.



# NEW HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Reprinted with permission by Tamara Gaskell, Rutgers University

There is no better place to learn the processes and techniques of historic preservation than the living laboratory of Camden and nearby Philadelphia. And in fall 2016, the **Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities, at Rutgers University-Camden**, will be launching a new continuing education program in historic preservation. The program is designed for those who desire to gain a deeper understanding of the vocabulary and discipline of historic preservation. Students will learn from professionals working in the field to gain a more realistic perspective on how the tangible remains of our past can be integrated within current environments.

Classes and workshops are open to anyone with an interest in preserving our built environment. These courses and workshops are part of a non-degree,

non-credit program. Continuing education credits earned may be applied toward a future certificate in historic preservation (in development).

## *2016-2017 Offerings*

- Introduction to Historic Preservation
- Getting Your Historic House (Museum) in Order: Foundation Documents for Managing Your Historic Property
- Make the Most of Your Historic District: Workshop and Tour of Camden's Cooper Street
- American Architectural History
- Preservation in Practice: A Primer for Historic Preservation Commissions
- Cemeteries and Historic Preservation: Workshop and Tour of the Woodlands and Mt. Moriah Cemetery

Registration for fall classes is now open. For more information, visit <http://preservation.rutgers.edu/>

## BOOKS ARE THE THING!

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

Joe Da Rold, reviewer

### ANCIENT TEXTS

**MY NAME IS RED** by Orhan Pamuk, 2001 (Published in Turkish in 1998).

The world of illuminated manuscripts is not one we encounter often, and I looked forward to reading about miniaturist manuscript illustrators in 16<sup>th</sup> century Istanbul, even in the realm of fiction. The historical information here is illuminating (no pun intended!), but with such detailed text, one searches in vain for illustrations, so a Google search is recommended. Many critics consider this to be Pamuk's finest work, but I found the writing to be excruciatingly repetitive. Pamuk's writing does not justify his reputation as the 2006 Nobel Prize winner. Rumors abound that his prize was politically motivated, and you can read about it on the Internet.

I sought out this book after a Rutgers professor suggested that, along with Murakami, this Turkish author was one of the big names in global literary circles. I found his early novel, *The White Castle*, to be so pedantic and poorly plotted that I quickly moved on to *My Name is Red*, and was disappointed again. Pamuk's latest novel, *A Strangeness in My Mind*, was published in November 2015, but I'll skip it.

**THE FIFTH GOSPEL** by Ian Caldwell, 2015.

Within the context of a suspense story, Caldwell engages the reader in a fascinating historical journey. I have read two books on the making of the Bible, but this was the first I had read of the *Diatesseron*. This little known historical codex was not really a separate gospel but a serious act of scholarship to blend the historical events depicted in the primary four gospels into a single narrative.

Set in Vatican City, a major exhibit about the Shroud of Turin is days away from opening at the Vatican Museum when the curator Ugo Nogara is found dead. His friend Father Simon, who was at the crime scene, remains silent and is accused of murder. Simon's brother, Father Alex, who has been helping Ugo analyze an ancient text to find clues about the shroud, finds his own life in danger. Most of the first half of the novel is about the holy shroud, and the history is a maze of owners, thefts, and determining authenticity. In the second half the novel shifts emphasis to the *Diatesseron*, aka the fifth gospel. The novel is not on a par with *Da Vinci Code*, but then neither is much of Dan Brown's own work. But it is an entertaining read.

## WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

### Member Updates from Across New Jersey

**Morristown & Morris Township Public Library** – submitted by Carolyn Dorsey, Librarian

***The 2016 North Jersey History and Genealogy Center Inaugural Photo Contest.***

Our contest challenged amateur photographers to capture images of Morristown and Morris Township and share them with the library. In response, we received many excellent submissions portraying numerous places of interest in our community. The winning photos for our contest can be seen here:

<http://morristownlibrary.org/HCFindingAids/2016 Photo Winners.html>

**Nutley Public Library** – submitted by Kiran B. Patel, Supervising Librarian

Congratulations to Mr. Anthony J. Iannarone, President of The Board of Trustees of the Nutley Public Library for receiving a "New Jersey Monthly's 2016 Seeds of Hope" award. Mr. Iannarone is one of the five honorees to be recognized for the Seeds of Hope Awards this year. This recognition includes a one-page story and photo spread in New Jersey Monthly's September 2016 issue.

Please see the following information regarding the program posted at <http://njmonthly.com/articles/best-of-jersey/garden-state-seeds-of-hope-2016-nominations-open/>

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

The Local History Department is pleased to announce its first ***Tri-County History Fair*** scheduled for Saturday, October 22, 2016, from 10 am to 4 pm. Participant tables will be located around the fountain on the library's lower level. The two guest speakers for the day are Joe Grabas, who will talk about property owners in Union, Somerset, and Middlesex Counties; and Richard Veit, who will discuss cemeteries and grave markers in the tri-county area. Two photography exhibits will be on display at this time: *Highlights from the Historical Collection* and *Plainfield Veterans* (contemporary photographs by Brian Price). There will be additional activities, as well as a raffle with two grand prizes of a gift certificate for an AncestryDNA testing kit! **Tables are limited, so please reserve one soon** by emailing Sarah Hull at [sarah.hull@plfdpl.info](mailto:sarah.hull@plfdpl.info) or by using the printable form available online here: <http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/Departments/LH/HistoryFair2016.html>

**Somerset County Historical Society of New Jersey** – submitted by Susan Fogg Eisdorfer, MLIS, PLCGS

We have just (and finally) opened our museum as of the Spring Meeting, May 15, 2016. We originally scheduled our Annual Meeting last November, but as you may recall, 2015 was the year Murphy paid us a visit and wreaked havoc for a while.

We had a lovely event with about sixty people throughout the day. Simultaneously, we had another individual complete a Washington-Rochambeau Trail project that culminated with a historic marker being placed on our property, since the French troops literally marched to and from Yorktown past our front door. The event was not heavily publicized beyond our own membership due to space limitations - sixty is actually twenty past capacity for our meeting room, but not all came for the talk, many came later just to tour the house, enjoy the refreshments and visit the two rooms of museum exhibits.

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

### ***Meet George Washington***

Wednesday, July 20, 2016, 7 to 8:30 pm, Warren Township Library

In celebration of Independence Day, Dr. Michael Norris of Armchair Art Tours will be honoring one of the most important founding fathers in American history. Declared at his death “First in peace, first in war, and first in the hearts of his countrymen,” George Washington was revered during his own lifetime. Through works of art often drawn from area museums, explore how his peers saw him and how his country remembered him. Dr. Norris is a former museum educator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art with over twenty years of experience.

### ***The Iconic Jersey Tomato -Tasting & Cooking Demonstration***

Thursday, July 21, 2016, 7 to 8:30 pm, Watchung Library

Thursday, July 28, 2016, 7 to 8:30 pm, Mary Jacobs Memorial Library

It's time for tomatoes! Once considered poisonous, the tomato has become one of the best loved joys of summer and synonymous with New Jersey. Come learn a bit about the tomato's lore, its true origins and New Jersey's role in its popularity. The program will include a cooking demonstration of two tomato recipes. Presenter, Rachel Weston, is the author of *New Jersey Fresh: Four Seasons from Farm to Table*.

### ***Meet Emily Roebling: Bridge Builder in Petticoats***

Tuesday, July 26, 2016, 3 to 4 pm at Bridgewater Library

Many books and films have featured the Brooklyn Bridge. Built between 1869 and 1883, without modern machines or even electric light, it was one of the most amazing technological achievements of its time. Yet few people know that a woman helped supervise much of its construction. After her husband was bedridden, Emily Roebling became his liaison to the project – eventually communicating with the engineers and suppliers so well that it was rumored that she had become the Chief Engineer herself! At her death, she was called “the most famous woman in New Jersey.”

### ***New Jersey State Parks***

Wednesday, July 27, 2016, 7 to 8:30 pm, Hillsborough Library

Explore historic battlefields, lighthouses, abandoned gorges, and undeveloped beaches as we travel through New Jersey's state parks. Author, photographer, and lecturer Kevin Woyce will present a slide show featuring original photography, vintage maps, and historic images. The presentation will be followed by a discussion and book signing.

## UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

**July 2016** \*7/18 H&P Section Meeting at the Tentoniana Room at the Trenton Public Library, 9:30 am\*

**Bridgewater Library (SCLS)**

July 26 – 3 to 4 pm / *Meet Emily Roebling: Bridge Builder in Petticoats*

**Hillsborough Library (SCLS)**

July 27 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *New Jersey State Parks*

**Mary Jacobs Memorial Library (SCLS)**

July 28 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *The Iconic Jersey Tomato -Tasting & Cooking Demonstration*

**Morristown & Morris Township Public Library**

July 14 – 7 pm / *Mid-Century Modernism and the Recent Past Debate*

July 21 – 7 pm / *What Are Historic Preservation Commissions All About?*

**Plainfield Public Library**

July 20 – 6 to 8 pm / *Hip Hop Edutainment & Hamilton – An American Musical*

**Warren Township Library (SCLS)**

July 20 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *Meet George Washington*

**Watchung Library (SCLS)**

July 21 – 7 to 8:30 pm / *The Iconic Jersey Tomato -Tasting & Cooking Demonstration*

**August 2016**

No events submitted

**September 2016**

**Nutley Public Library**

September 12 – 7 pm / Monday Night Book Club: *Food, Culture and Books*

**Plainfield Public Library**

September 10 – 10:30 am to Noon / *The Rest of the Story* with Legal Genealogist, Judy G. Russell

September 19 / *Plainfield Veterans: Photography of Brian Price*, exhibit opens and runs through November

September 24 – 1 to 3 pm / *The Hornes Of Plainfield: A Hermeneutical View Of African American Life*, with noted local author, Rev. Dr. Leonard Bethel

**October 2016** \*10/5 H&P Section Meeting at the Monmouth County Library (Noon to 1 pm)\*

**Nutley Public Library**

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

**Monmouth County Library**

October 4 - 6 / Archives Week History Programs (see above for schedule)

October 8 – 8:45 am to 3 pm / Archives and History Day (register now for table, free public admission)

**Plainfield Public Library**

October 22 – 10 am to 4 pm / Tri-County History Fair (register now for table, free public admission)