



The North Jersey Historian

Newsletter of the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center
of the Morristown & Morris Township Library

Department News



Summer

is nearly here, and we're putting out the welcome mat for our vacation researchers – all those dedicated historians and genealogists who spend their summer vacations traveling to our library. In past years we have had researchers from as far away as Europe, Japan, and the west coast of North America. We look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new friends as well. And just in time for our summer visitors we have added many new databases.

Historic Maps

The most recent addition to our selection of databases is *Historic Map Works*. This database provides over 200,000 full color digital historic maps of Europe, Africa, Asia, Oceania and the Americas from the 15th to the early 20th centuries. It also includes city directories and phone books to help researchers track individuals with geographic locations.

City Directories

One of the most useful sources for genealogists is the city or county directory. Precursors to telephone books, these easy to use directories are alphabetical lists that can help researchers locate individuals or businesses. To make the search process even more convenient, we have scanned all the Morristown and Morris County directories from our microfilm collection and made them available on our public computers. The Directories available are:

Morris County Directories, 1897-1909
Morristown City Directories, 1885-1982

Magazines & Newspapers

Continuing our mission to make historic New Jersey newspapers accessible to researchers, we have scanned twelve more newspapers and one magazine. They are available in full-text searchable format on our public computers.

Democratic Banner, 1881-1917
Dover Iron Era, 1872-1905
Genius of Liberty, 1798-1814
Madison Eye Opener, 1877-1882
Morris County Chronicle, 1877-1914
New Jersey Freeman (Boonton), 1844-1850
New Jersey Journal (Chatham), 1779-1783
Palladium of Liberty, 1808- 1834
Patron of Industry, May-Sep. 1827
The Argus, 1890-1951
Stanhope Eagle, 1885-1950
True Democratic Banner, 1849-1881

And, last but certainly not least for fans of Craftsman Farm and Gustav Stickley, is *The Craftsman*, a magazine published between October 1901 and December 1916.

Christine Jochem



Calendar of Events

Compiled by *Marilyn Stearns*

5/1 -6/20 -- *Hungry Planet: What the World Eats* is a color photographic traveling exhibit at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm, free. 973-326-7645.

6/1-29 -- *Willowwood Arboretum Centennial Photography Exhibit* at the Haggerty Education Center Gallery of the Frelinghuysen Arboretum, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. daily.

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The Archivist's Journal

Recently processed collections:

The records of the *Zonta Club of the Morristown Area* are now available for research use, and a finding aid to the collection is available on the library's website.

In the early 1900s, while working in a prominent role at the *Buffalo Express* newspaper at a time when women rarely held leadership positions, journalist Marian de Forest conceived the idea of a network of women in executive and business positions, who would work to take their place in the professions next to men.

By March of 1919, five women organized to achieve this mission and chartered the first *Zonta* club in Buffalo, New York. "Zhonta," a word derived from the Lakhota language of the Sioux peoples, means honest and trustworthy. It evolved into the word "Zonta," and was incorporated into the *Zonta* emblem, which uses a Sioux Indian symbol meaning "banded together for service."

Membership in the fledgling organization grew rapidly, and a confederation of nine *Zonta* clubs formed with 600 members. These members were among the first generation of college-educated women, the first generation of North American women to vote, and a part of the growing legion of women entering the workforce.

In 1956 the *Zonta Club of the Morristown Area* was chartered, with Emma L. Conlon as the first Chapter President. This local group pledged to undertake service projects to benefit women and women's issues in the greater Morristown area. As one of more than 1100 *Zonta* clubs worldwide, the Morristown Chapter hosts an active membership that assumes leadership roles in the community. Through their participation in service projects, committee work and fund-raising activities, Morristown Area Zontians support and benefit the greater Morris County, New Jersey area.

The records of the Morristown branch of the *American Association of University Women* have also

been arranged lately. Started in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1881, 17 women, all college graduates, gathered for the first time under the name of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. By 1882 their ranks numbered 65 members, and their goal was to unite alumnae of different institutions in "practical education work." Today's membership, numbering more than 100,000 nationwide, is organized under the title of the *American Association of University Women*. As a group, they continue to lobby for educational opportunities for women and girls, as well as for equal pay.

In 1934 the Morristown branch of the *American Association of University Women* was organized by a group of 12 women, who met at the Morristown YMCA. Their goals have included raising the standards of local colleges in order for their graduates to be eligible for membership, the creation of a community college in the mid-1960s, and bringing the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra to Morris County for performances in the early 1970s. The records of the *American Association of University Women, Morristown Branch* are now available for research use, and a finding aid to the collection may be viewed on the library's website.

Exhibits:

In honor of Black History Month, I mounted a display on the life of Ethel Ernestine Harper, titled, *A Life of Gladness and Joy*, in the circulation room. Using documents and photographs from the Harper collection, I was able to highlight three distinct time periods: her family and her first career as a teacher in Alabama, her years living in New York City, and her years living and volunteering in Morris County, New Jersey.

Ethel lived in several locations in the Morris County area before settling in Morristown. She worked as the first African American Girl Scout leader in Morris County until her retirement. After retiring, Ethel was still an extremely active woman; she taught black history at local schools, produced entertainment fundraisers for local causes, and was a community activist for senior citizens in her later years

Mary McMahon Dawson

Thank You to Our 2007 Donors

We are grateful to the many individuals and organizations that made donations to the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center in 2007. Through their gifts of books, documents, photographs, etc., as well as financial support, they have contributed to making our Local History Department one of the finest research collections in New Jersey.

Nancy Adamczyk	Ritva Litty
Josephine Ballingall	Loantaka-Parsippany Chapter, DAR
Stephen Bates	Linda Matthew
Ilse L. Bell	Mary McMahan
John Bickers	Mary McCall Middleton
Janet Bobbin	Morris County Trust for Historic Preservation
Anne Bowman	New Brunswick Public Library
Joan Buck	New Jersey Society of Mayflower
Robert Buerhaus	Descendants
Gale Pollard Campbell	Maria Norton
Judy Cassidy	RBA Group
Greg Casterline	Deborah Richards
Kemper Chambers	John P. Rickershauser
George Coulthard	Wendy Sandford, Mt. Olive Public Library
Barbara and Dick Doran	Margaret J. Schulz
Jeffrey Eger	The Seeing Eye Institute
Susan Eisdorfer	Nancy Serra-Spencer
Maureen Gilmartin	Michael & Shelley Shavel
Glidden Genealogical Publishing Co.	Scott Shepherd
James D. Grabow	Ruth Shults
Susan Gulick	Alvy Ray Smith
Cheryl Hahn	Jeff Swenson
Sarah Harries	David K. Taylor
Marion Harris	Visiting Nurse Association of Somerset Hills
Suzanne Law Hawes	Warner-Lambert, Executive Committee
Becky Hoskins	Warren Township Historical Society
Richard T. Irwin	Dudley Woodbridge
Lake Hopatcong Historical Society	Al Zimmerman
Pauline Lindsley	Zonta Club of Morristown Area

Special thanks are extended to:

Mrs. Alice Caulkins, for her many significant contributions, particularly to the Thomas Nast Collection;

Mrs. Marion Orr Harris, for her unfailing financial assistance to promote electronic access to our collections ; and

Mr. Frank Kelley, for his financial support, his contribution of historical and genealogical research material, and his thousands of hours of volunteer work in our department.

Mr. Kelley passed away unexpectedly December 9, 2007, and is missed terribly.

New Acquisitions

H3H5
Hobo
Mil

Miller, William. *On the Waterfront: The Great Ships of Hoboken*. Hoboken Historical Museum, 2005.

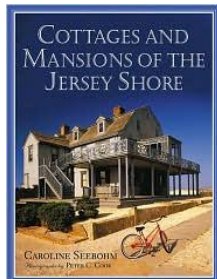
This pictorial volume documents the waterfront of Hoboken with 170 photographs that illustrate the history of the once bustling harbor with information on ships, shipping lines and the shipyards of Hoboken.

H3U5
West
Cho

Choroszewski, Walter. *Westfield: A Celebration of Community*. Aesthetic Press, 2003.

This photographic essay of the Union County community of Westfield, which focuses on the people, places and activities of the town as well as buildings and landmarks and includes a section with historic photographs.

H2
See



Sebohm, Caroline. *Cottages and Mansions of the Jersey Shore*. Rivergate Books, 2007.

An illustrated volume of accounts, anecdotes and history of the mansions, cottages and bungalows that adorn the Jersey shore covers historical structures to more contemporary architecture; the volume also includes historical information on the communities that are documented.

H720.92
Schmidt

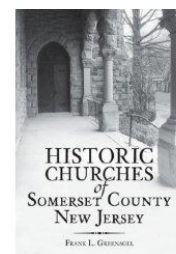
Hewitt, Mark Alan. *The Architecture of Mott B. Schmidt*. Rizzoli, 1991.

The domestic architect Mott B. Schmidt practiced in New York from 1912 until the 1970s. His homes were designed in his own American Georgian style and served the New York area's societal and business elite. Included are plans, interior views and a series of contemporary photos of the residences made for this volume.

H3So1
Gre

Greenagel, Frank L. *Historic Churches of Somerset County New Jersey*. History Press, 2006.

Mr. Greenagel's illustrated guide to the fifty-nine 18th and 19th century churches in Somerset County contains historical and architectural information with research on architectural trends and influences in the county as well as a chronological inventory of the churches.



Jim Collins

Recent Acquisitions of Particular Note

Papers of the Monday Afternoon Reading Club



The History Center is pleased to announce that we have acquired the papers of the *Monday Afternoon Reading Club*.

Founded on Mrs. Watt's front porch on Hill Street in the summer of 1893, the premise of the *Reading Club* was both social and educational. Members would gather twice a month to read, after which they would break for high tea. They read serious titles, mostly histories and biographies, though in later years they added books on travel. And their tradition of reading books aloud, rather than reading them in advance and simply discussing them together, evokes a more leisurely, less frenetic time.

The Reading Club lasted for over 100 years, but by last year only four members remained. They decided to officially disband, but the events and memories of the *Monday Afternoon Reading Club* will live on in our archives.

Epitaphs from the Old Burying-Ground in Cambridge

by William Thaddeus Harris,
Junior Sophister in Harvard College.
Cambridge: John Owen, 1845

An inscribed copy of *Epitaphs from the Old Burying-Ground in Cambridge* was donated to the library by Kemper Chambers. William Thaddeus Harris inscribed this copy to his mother: "To Mrs. Catherine Harris – With the best wishes of her affectionate son." And inserted within the pages were several pieces of correspondence between Harris and Dr. Timothy Lindall Jennison, a Cambridge physician and tutor at Harvard, and Dr. William F. Stone, as well as notes on gravestones.

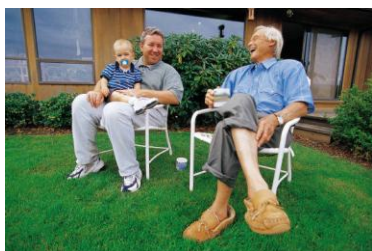
Harris was born in 1826 in Milton, MA. During his short life, he graduated from Harvard College in 1846 and Harvard Law School in 1848. He also earned degrees from Yale, Amherst, and Williams Colleges.

Following in his father's footsteps, Harris was a Librarian at Harvard, but his true calling seems to have been the notes and inscriptions he compiled for *The New England Genealogical Register*. Despite suffering from a permanent curvature of the spine, the result of a childhood illness, Harris copied the inscriptions from tombstones in Cambridge Burying Ground, which were published with notes from his research. He later transcribed the epitaphs in the Old Burying Ground at Watertown as well, which were published posthumously by his brother, Edward Doubleday Harris. William Harris died at the age of 38 in 1854.



Christine Jochem, Department Head

**Talking to Grandpa:
A Neglected First Step
in Approaching Family History**



When I started out in library work, I met a genealogist who gave me a very useful piece of advice when I expressed an interest in learning more about my family's past. She told me the most important thing I could do was to question anyone who had been in the family longer than I, starting with the oldest member. "Do it now," she said firmly, "not later."

For me the lesson was wasted. I waited many years before following up on her suggestion. My grandmother—and all her stories about the family—had passed on. I had a vague recollection of a few things she had told me, but it would take years to reconstruct many of the details from other sources. I did take the time to sit down with my dad, and he provided me with a few stories and lots of good clues. Now that he is suffering from Alzheimer's disease, I am grateful that I took pencil and paper and recorded his words.

So before the next family get-together, gather your thoughts, and write down a few questions that you hope relatives may answer. There are plenty of books in our department that offer guidance on how to conduct an interview. If you have an audio recorder, your task will be made much easier. However if you don't have a recording device, don't put off the interview. Taking good notes will suffice. Sit down with a relative, and start with basic biographical queries focusing on relevant names, dates and places—birth dates, former addresses, where they were married, parents' names, etc. Then ask about education, occupation, travels, life experiences. How much does he or she know about previous generations? Download a few pedigree charts, and have them handy so that you and your family can fill them out together. Ask them to show you any photo

albums, baby books or other family memorabilia they have tucked away. If you have older folks in your family, who live a distance away prepare a short questionnaire that you can mail to them. Including a self-addressed, stamped envelope may improve your return rate.

Although this may be only your first step in tracing your genealogy, it is an invaluable tool to learning about your heritage. The facts you gather, the stories you hear are unique to your family. If you decide to stop here, family members will certainly appreciate your accomplishments. However if you choose to build your family tree from the information you've put together, collect your notes and records, and stop in at the North Jersey History Center to find out about where to go next in your search for the past. If the process takes longer than you think, don't be too concerned. The great thing about doing genealogy is that there is never a finish line.

Cheryl Turkington
Assistant Archivist



Events continued from page 1

6/3 – *Their Times and Their Places*. Nancy Ronning will show that there is more to learn about your ancestors than just names and dates. Morris Area Genealogy Society. Morris County Library, 30 East Hanover Avenue, Whippany. Refreshments are available at 6:30 p.m.; meeting at 6:45 p.m.

6/4 – *See It, Keep It, Use It: The New American Standard*. Historic Preservation Conference will focus on the intersection of preservation with ecological and economic sustainability. College Avenue Campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick. For conference information and registration material, call 609-984-0543 or visit: www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo.

6/7 – *Historic Churches of Morristown Tour* is part of the series of *Tours @ 10:00*. Meet at 6 Court Street, Morristown. Tickets are \$10; reservations are required. 973-631-5151.

Events continued on page 7

Events continued from page 6

6/9 – *Walking Tour of Historic Residential District of Boonton* is presented by the Historical Society of Boonton. Meet at the Boardwalk on Main Street at 10:00 a.m. 973-402-8840.

6/14 – *Walking Tour of Grace Lord Park* is presented by Gail Yorkston. Meet at the gazebo in the park. Boonton Historical Society. Suggested donation \$5 for non-members; free for members. 10:00 a.m.

6/14 – *Courthouse & Trial of Antoine LeBlanc Tour* is part of the series of *Tours @ 10:00*. Meet at 6 Court Street, Morristown. Tickets are \$10; reservations required. 973-631-5151.

6/14 – Colonial Evening of Beer Sampling at Schuyler-Hamilton House is a fundraiser to benefit needed roof repairs. Colonial dress is welcome. \$40 per person, \$75 per couple. 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 973-539-7502.

6/14 – *Hackettstown Historic House Tour*. A walking tour through five historic homes and inns is included in a full day schedule of events. tickets: \$20 in advance. Call 908-852-6407 for times and details. Or visit www.hackettstownhistory.com.

6/21 – Lake Hopatcong Antique Boat Show at the Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club is presented by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum. 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. All welcome. 973-398-2616.

6/21 – *Drew University Walking Tour* explores Mead Hall. Part of the *Tours @ 10:00* series. Meet at Mead Hall, Drew University. 10:00 a.m. Tickets are \$10; reservations are required. 973-631-5151.

6/21 & 22 – *Civil War Weekend* at Historic Speedwell. The 2nd New Jersey Brigade brings the battle of the Blue and the Gray to life. admission charge, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 973-285-6550.

6/28 – *Historic Morristown Walking Tour* is part of the series of *Tours @ 10:00*. Meet at 6 Court Street, Morristown. Tickets are \$10; reservations are required. 973-631-5151.

7/4 – Celebrate the Fourth of July and the park's 75th anniversary. Morristown National Historical Park, Washington's Headquarters, 30 Washington Place, Morristown. 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. 908-766-8215.

7/5 – Fireworks! 75th Anniversary Celebration of Morristown National Historical Park, with Lewis Morris County Park. Sponsored by the Washington Association of New Jersey. 7:30 p.m. Free. 973-539-2016, ext. 210.

7/6 – Auction of cards from the Gary Dubnick estate will be held at the Garden State Postcard Club Meeting, Long Hill Senior Citizen Center, 769 Valley Road, Gillette. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

7/7 – *Walking Tour of Main Street, Boonton* is presented by the Boonton Historical Society. Meet at Canalside Park Overlook at 10:00 a.m. 973-402-8840.

7/12 – *Cooper Mill Military Timeline Living History*: free (donations appreciated). At Cooper Mill, Chester Township. 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., 973-285-6852.

7/26 & 27 – Revolutionary War Encampment. Adults \$9; seniors \$7, children \$5. Red Mill Museum Village, 56 Main Street, Clinton. 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. 908-735-4101.

7/27 – *Old Fashioned Fun Day* at Acorn Hall. Enjoy a day of family fun. Regular admissions prices apply. 973-267-3465.

7/31 – *The Boat Houses of Lake Hopatcong* is a program presented by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum at the Jefferson House Restaurant. 6:00 p.m. 973-398-2616.

8/3 - Auction of cards from the Gary Dubnick estate will be held at the Garden State Postcard Club Meeting, Long Hill Senior Citizen Center, 769 Valley Road, Gillette. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

9/27 – *Genealogy Day* is a full day of talks on Internet Genealogy by the Morris Area Genealogy Society, United Methodist Church, Chatham NJ

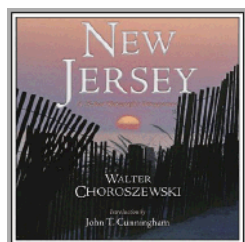
Shop at the Library

Throughout the year the History Center sells a variety of books, calendars and postcards on state and local history. Profits from the sale of these items support the library.

Postcards of Morristown by Pam Hasegawa.....50¢/each



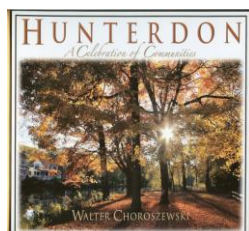
The Evergreen Cemetery: A Walk into the Past, by Kemper W. Chambers.....\$20.00



New Jersey: A 25-year Photographic Retrospective [signed copy]

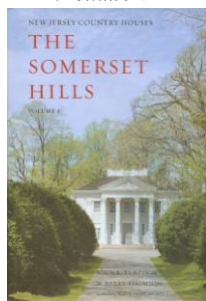
20% off regular retail price of \$40.....\$34.24

Hunterdon: A Celebration of Communities

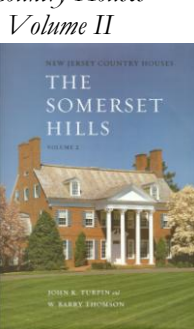


20% off regular retail price of \$40.....\$34.24

The Somerset Hills: New Jersey Country Houses Volume I



20% off regular retail price of \$75.....\$64.20



Prices include tax but do not include shipping.

Contact Us:

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North Jersey History & Genealogy Center
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Morristown, NJ 07960

973-538-3473

Web Site:
<http://www.morristownmorristwplibrary.info>

Visit Us:

Library & History Center hours:

Mon.-Thurs.:	9:00-9:00
Friday:	9:00-6:00
Saturday:	9:30-5:00
Sat. (July/Aug.):	10:00-2:00
Sunday:	1:00-5:00

Winter & Spring 2008

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The North Jersey Historian is published quarterly.

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The next deadline is August 15, 2008