



The North Jersey Historian

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

Department News

May 3, 2010, started like most Mondays: springtime showers slowed our morning commute, but promised to clear out as the week progressed. Downstairs in the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center staff began arriving with dripping umbrellas. Having worked for many years in our old building, we were accustomed to its quirks and barely paid attention when the lights began to flicker. But when the phone lines went dead, and the computers shut down, we knew this was something more than storm-related. With no phones to communicate within departments, our Interim-Director was in the process of gathering staff in the Circulation room on the first floor when the fire alarm sounded.



Most library staff would have chalked this up to old wiring or storm-related power surges, but the staff of the Morristown & Morris Township Library had lived through a similar event in 1994.

When the fire alarm sounded, we ran out of the building without delay. Standing at the Miller Road entrance to the library's parking lot Interim-Director Maria Norton and I stopped to look at the smoke billowing up from a manhole cover when an underground explosion ripped through the library, shattering glass windows and blowing steel fire doors right out of their frames.

It was many hours before we realized the full extent of the damage. And it took many more days for staff to fully grasp the seriousness of this event. Thirty seconds more, and people would have died.....not just gotten hurt, but died.

The explosion caused water pipes in the library to burst, which in turn flooded the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center. Crews worked through the night and into Tuesday, May 4, removing saturated carpet and setting up fans and dryers to dry out our department. And here's where the second miracle occurred: we lost no collection material. A few items came in contact with the water and are receiving conservation treatment, but overall the staff of the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center proved we practice what we preach: we do not store or shelf collection material any lower than 4"-6" off the floor.

The damage to our building is severe and will take many months to repair, but the worst structural damage was confined to the original wing of the library. With some rearranging, we plan to re-open all library departments in the new wing after Labor Day. In the meantime, the whole staff is working harder than ever: indexing newspapers, scanning photos, and handling research questions. We invite you to check in with us for updates on construction, and of course you are welcome to visit us in our temporary "library" at 88 South Street.

Christine Jochem, Department Head

Calendar of Events

Compiled by Cynthia Muszala

Saturdays in June, July, and August – *Historical Walking Tours*. The Morris County Tourism Bureau invites you to walk and experience the rich history of Morris County. Learn about *Morristown in 3 Centuries*, the *Trial of the 19th Century: Antoine LeBlanc*, *Secrets & Lore of Historic Morristown*, and more. Tickets are \$10, children 6 and under are free. All tours except for the *Legends of Mendham's Past* will depart from the Morris County Tourism Bureau, 6 Court Street, Morristown. Tours begin at 10:00 a.m. and will last approximately 1 ½ hours. Reservations are required. (973) 631-5151 or visit www.morristourism.org

Select Sundays in June, July, and September – *Caboose Train Rides*. The Whippany Railway Museum is offering the start of regularly scheduled excursion train rides that will feature a unique collection of antique restored cabooses from historic rail lines of the past. The 45-minute round trip allows visitors to view the train and landscape as railroaders did for over 100 years. Trains depart from the Museum site in Whippany, NJ at 1, 2, 3 & 4 p.m., rain or shine. For ticket fares and additional information, call 973-285-6550 or visit www.whippanyrailwaymuseum.net

Thursday Evenings in July– 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Acorn Hall will be open. Stop by for a tour, to shop, or to see the fabulous exhibit, *Gowns: From Birth to Bedroom to Ballroom*. Regular admission rates apply. Last tour begins at 6:15 p.m. Call 973-267-3465 or see www.acornhall.org

Through August 29 – *The Shoe Must Go On*. Experience an exhibition featuring more than 250 pairs of shoes. Explore centuries of shoe design, and present shoes from many different “walks” of life. The exhibition explores more than fifteen themes and features footwear of distinguished individuals who share a special connection to the state of New Jersey, including Governor Chris Christie and Thomas Edison. For additional

information, call 973-971-3721 or see www.morristownmuseum.org

Through October – *Mr. Morristown's Museum: 60 Years of Macculloch Hall*. The exhibit displays how in 1950 W. Parsons Todd transformed this gracious old home into a historical museum. Admission fees apply; members free. Call 973-538-2404 or see www.maccullochhall.org

Through 2010 – *Lenape: Tools and Daily Living*. Visitors are invited to learn about the indigenous Indians who lived on the land now known as New Jersey. Among the displays will be a dugout canoe as well as historic and contemporary Lenape clothing. Museum of Early Trades and Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison. Call 973-377-2982 or see www.metc.org

6/26 - *Awesome Anvil Antics at Cooper Gristmill*. See a blacksmith at work as he forges iron into useful items, employing early 1900s techniques and tools. In honor of Father's Day, the previous Sunday, a free bag of flour or meal will be given to all dads, while supplies last. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Cooper Gristmill, Chester Township. Call 908-879-5463 or see www.morrisparks.net

6/27 - *Annual Giralda Lawn Concert at Giralda Farms Corporate Park*. 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join The Morris County Historical Society at the Arts Council of the Morris Area's annual Giralda Concert in Madison. The gates open at 3:00 p.m. and attendees can enjoy an art show, refreshments, family activities, and MCHS's own Victorian textile arts display and demonstration booth. The concert performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will begin at 6 p.m. Advance tickets are \$12 for adults, \$4 for children under 12, while tickets at the gate will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Call 973-285-5115 or see www.morrisarts.org

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New Acquisitions

The North Jersey History and Genealogy Center recently acquired an original copy of:

Document No. 173

Pier and Light-House – Cape May Roads.

Joint Resolutions

of the

Legislature of the State of New Jersey.

March 14, 1836.

In the early years of the 19th century Delaware Bay commerce was increasing, but vessels bound up the Delaware River in rough weather could not safely run the breakwater. Their only recourse was to ride out storms at anchor or go ashore, a dangerous proposition for vessels drawing more than three fathoms of water.

Vessels bound up the Delaware and running the eastern channel, are lost for the want of light-houses on the Jersey shore.

.....until, in 1836, the Legislative Council and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey passed a joint resolution to request an appropriation from Congress for the construction of a pier and two light houses.

They proposed to [e]rect a stone pier.....on what is called "Crows Shoal,".....and also a light-house on Egg Island, and another on Cohansey point.

After a survey was completed by U.S. Topographical Engineers, Crow Shoal did not receive an appropriation from Congress and the plan for a stone pier was abandoned for the next twenty years.



However, in 1838 Egg Island lighthouse was built at the mouth of the Maurice River. Unfortunately, it was poorly constructed and showed signs of cracked walls within the first year.

U.S. Coast Guard

The lighthouse service also built a lighthouse at Cohansey Point in 1838. But, like Egg Island lighthouse, Cohansey was poorly constructed and suffered from leaks and crumbling walls within the first two years.



Christine Jochem, Department Head

Archivist's Journal -

Looking back through my files I am finding it hard to believe that I have not written any kind of synopsis, update, or progress report since last August for this newsletter.

Since last summer I have been, for the most part, working on the North Jersey History & Genealogy Center's *Photograph and Image Collection*. In order to gain a better understanding of this large collection, as well as out of a desire to house the photos better, I started to inventory, often to the item level, and re-house them in acid-free folders and file boxes, and prepared them for scanning/digitizing, a task to be undertaken by our new associate librarian/ archivist, Caroline Dorsey. (See related article on page 6.)

Other archival projects I have been working on include continuing to process the *Garden Club of Morristown Records*; accepting book donations from the North Jersey Civil War Roundtable; performing file maintenance, and helping insurance personnel inventory our rare book and art collections.

And did I mention the explosion? For about two months now, since May 3, 2010 when a horrific explosion destroyed portions of the 1917 Willis Wing, I have made myself available to Interim Library Director Maria Norton and History Center Head Chrys Jochem in order to help them with anything and everything that needs to be done to get ready for the library's re-opening. This includes preparing press releases for local newspapers, moving unique artifacts to safety deposit boxes, arranging departmental meetings, and sitting at "administration headquarters" in order to guard the back door to the library, which needed to be kept unlocked for workmen to have access.

Perhaps of most importance is the fact that I have been helping to revise the *Library's Disaster Plan*. Chrys Jochem, Caroline Dorsey and I have been meeting, discussing, and revising crucial aspects of the library's disaster planning. In light of our recent real-world experience, we feel confident in making any kind of changes that will improve upon the clarity and explication of the document.

An unforeseen benefit of our forced hiatus from the library has been the ability of our department to take "class trips." Since we are unable to staff the reference desk in our department right now, we have taken the opportunity to visit our colleagues in other libraries. We traveled to the State Archives in Trenton and had a wonderful tour of their gorgeous facility. As a member of the New Jersey Library Association's History and Preservation Section, I went with other History Center staff members, to a meeting at Washington's Headquarters here in Morristown. We were able to tour their recently renovated buildings and discovered that they own a wonderful rare book collection, the *Lloyd W. Smith Archival Collection*.

I am hopeful that by the time of our next newsletter publication we will be back in our offices and in the process of returning to normality. While we are bearing up pretty well with our forced displacement, it will be so nice to get back to the status quo. In a couple of years, (or even sooner!) I hope to look fondly upon the 2010 explosion as a great learning experience.

Mary McMabon Dawson

The More Things Change...



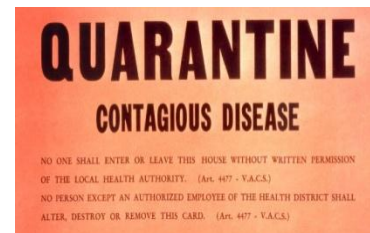
Is this the first time the library was forced to close its doors due to circumstances beyond its control?

You may remember that there was a previous explosion in 1994 that left us homeless for about six weeks. But even before that, our local history collection has revealed a closure in the early part of the twentieth century due to a town-wide crisis. Officials ordered the library—and other public venues where people gathered—to close in order to slow the spread of an epidemic disease gripping the community. Diphtheria, smallpox, infantile paralysis (polio), scarlet fever, cholera and typhoid fever, measles, and influenza...all made their insidious presence felt in town and often with devastating effect to the populace.

Morristown's Board of Health, created in 1872 to protect the public and promote a healthful environment, worked diligently to prevent the spread of contagious disease. With few medicinal weapons to combat these afflictions, officials resorted to quarantine, an often unpopular alternative. Sick individuals

and all household members were required to stay in their homes. Such drastic measures were viewed by many residents as an invasive violation of individual rights that caused emotional distress and economic hardship for the isolated family. To enforce the quarantine, officials often hired police officers to keep the families inside and everyone else out. Public health agents also banned all public gatherings.

To counteract the deadly influenza epidemic of 1918, the *Morristown Daily Record* reported



that in October, the Board of Health ordered all “saloons, soda fountains, pool parlors, and the Library” to be shuttered.

With ten deaths and more than 400 cases of flu reported in three weeks, the library remained padlocked for some time. Health officials also directed library staff to accept no books (Of course there were no DVDs, CDs or books on tape to worry about.) from any quarantined home, until they were “properly disinfected.” The existing records are vague on who was charged with that unpleasant task. I do hope that, “fumigating the books” was not a task included in our predecessors’ job descriptions!

Cheryl Turkington

Imagine This

Our department is underway in processing our long-term digital imaging project. This project will create new ways for our users to access and search our collections **online**. Currently we are focused on digitizing our extensive collection of historic photographs and images.

Some of our principles of digitization are:

- To use a database structure that offers excellent search and retrieval options, scalability, and ease of use for both staff and our patrons
- To digitize at the highest resolution appropriate for the source material
- To digitize at the right level of quality to avoid re-digitizing and rehandling of the originals in the future
- To create and store a master image file that can be used to produce duplicate image files and serve a variety of current and future user needs
- To store digital files in an appropriate environment
- To use nonproprietary file types
- To create backup copies of all files on servers and have an off-site backup strategy

- To create meaningful metadata for image files and collections so that our users can easily access our collection

Our metadata describes the content of our images and collections, and is used for the indexing, searching and accessing a digital resource.

- To anticipate future technological developments

We are managing the digitization project “in house.” This gives us control over the imaging process and the flexibility to adjust our digitization strategy, depending on the project. We plan to launch the collection this fall, and we look forward to sharing this exciting collection with our patrons. This will be an ongoing project, and we plan to add new items on a regular basis.

Carolyn Dorsey

N.B.:

Another casualty of the explosion is the ability to print our newsletter in living color. If you want to see this newsletter as it is meant to be check the library website <http://jfpl.org> click on North Jersey History & Genealogy Center, then click on newsletter. You will also be able to view past newsletters.

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7/3 – *Explore the Farm*. Enjoy an interpretive horsedrawn wagon ride while discovering the importance of sustainable farming. Learn about the methods, equipment, crops and enterprises of Charles Foster's farm in the early 1900s. 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. at Fosterfields. There is an admission fee and preregistration is required. Please call 973-326-7645 or visit:

www.morrisparks.net/calendars

7/4, 8/1, & 9/5 – *Garden State Postcard Club Meeting*. Long Hill Senior Citizen Center, 769 Valley Road, Gillette. 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. For additional information, call 973-538-1210.

www.seocom.com/gspcc/index.html

7/18 – *Sallets, Cooking from the Rare Book Collection*. Learn about John Evelyn (1620 – 1706) an English writer, gardener, and diarist whose memoirs illuminate the art, culture, and politics of a turbulent time. View the Evelyn books in the Julia Appleton Cross Rare Book Collection. Historic recipes from his only cookbook *Sallets* will be re-created by Chef Cynthia Triolo. The 17th century style salads will be yours to sample. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Register by July 5th, \$15.00 for members and \$20.00 for non-members. Call 973-326-7603 or visit www.arboretumfriends.org

7/24 – *Farms Afield*. Come to the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, formerly the Lackawanna Train Station, in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for a viewing of the hotel's thirty-six Grueby tile panels and a lecture by Grueby authority Dr. Susan Montgomery, author of *The Ceramics of William H. Grueby: The Spirit of New Idea in Artistic Handicraft*. The Grueby murals, which portray scenes along the railroad's lines, including New Jersey landscapes and railway stations, formed a frieze around the rail station's waiting room, now the site of Carmen's Ristorante and Wine Bar. The visit will begin with a viewing of the

murals and a tour of the grand historic building designed by Kenneth Murchison, designer of the Hoboken Ferry Terminal, and Edward Langley. \$45 Members; \$65 Non Members. Fee includes a viewing of the murals, a tour of the hotel, lunch, and a lecture from Grueby authority Dr. Susan Montgomery. Transportation is not provided. For additional information contact 973-540-0311 or visit www.stickleymuseum.org

7/25, 8/1, and 8/8 – *Shakespeare in the Garden*. Join the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Next Stage Ensemble for a creative and enthusiastic interpretation of the Bard's works at 4:00 p.m. General admission fees; members free. Call 973-538-2404 or see www.maccullochhall.org

7/25 – *Old Fashioned Fun Day*. 1:00-4:00 p.m. Enjoy a day of family fun at Acorn Hall, including special tours for children, games on the lawn, Victorian dress-up, tea and cookies, and a take-home craft. Regular admission prices apply. Call 973-267-3465 or see www.acornhall.org

8/29 – *Members' Garden Party*. MCHS members are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawn of Acorn Hall. Tea and dessert will be served. 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Acorn Hall. Call 973-267-3465 or visit www.acornhall.org

9/16 - *Costume and Textile Care Workshop*. This workshop is offered free of charge exclusively for volunteers at local historical organizations in Morris County. Tips and techniques will be offered about caring for costume and textile collections. Presenters include MCHS curator Debra Westmoreland and Carrie Fellows, Executive Director, Macculloch Hall Museum. Held at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Call 973-267-3465 or visit www.acornhall.org

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9/25 – *A Day in Old Mount Tabor – Seventeenth Annual House Tour*. Mt. Tabor, New Jersey, a historic Victorian Camp Meeting community, showcases over 15 Victorian cottages and historic buildings on a self-guided walking tour. Box lunches will be available for sale. 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., rain or shine. Please call 973-586-1564 or see www.mounttabornj.org

9/25 - *Costume Workshop*. Looking to make your own authentic costume to wear at your historic site? Participants will learn where to find authentic patterns, appropriate fabrics, and specialty items to create their own period wardrobe. Each participant will leave with a packet of information and fabric samples. Held from 12:30-3:30 p.m. at the Frelinghuysen Arboretum. \$10 for nonmembers, \$5 for MCHS members. Reservations are required. Call 973-267-3465 or see www.acornhall.org

9/25 – Enjoy a three course, sit-down tea served amid the splendor of Acorn Hall. Seating is limited, reservations are required. \$25 for MCHS members, \$30 for non-members, from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. Please reserve by Thursday, September 23. Call 973-267-3465 or visit www.acornhall.org

9/26 - *Poets in the Garden*. Come to Macculloch Hall's gardens for an afternoon of readings by noted literary artists. General admission applies; members free. Call 973-538-2404 or visit www.maccullochhall.org

9/25 & 9/26 – *Antiques Weekend at Fosterfields Living Historical Farm*. Presented by the Associated Antique Dealers of New Jersey, a non-profit professional organization. The event features an outdoor antique market along with the chance to tour the house at Fosterfields and to enjoy living history demonstrations. Call 973-887-7994 or visit www.aadnj.org

Contact Us:

The Morristown & Morris Township Library
North Jersey History & Genealogy Center
One Miller Road
Morristown, NJ 07960

For latest library developments check:

Library Web Site: <http://www.jfpl.org>

N.B.:

At the moment, due to the explosion, our department is scattered and not fully functioning. The library does have temporary quarters at 88 South Street. The hours are:

Mon.-Fri.	10:00-7:00
Saturday	10:00-2:00
Sunday	1:00-5:00

Phones:

973-998-7319 Library
973-998-7321 Reference

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Annette Tyler, Editor