

Volume 12, Number 1  
April 15, 2011

**Special points of interest:**

**History & Preservation programs at the 2011 NJLA Conference— May 3, 2011**

**1) 9:00-9:50am:**

**Revolutionary War Stories of New Jersey.**

**2) 11:00-11:50am**

**When disasters Happen: How to be (as) prepared (as possible)**

**3) 1:30-2:30pm**

**Managing Preservation without a Preservation Librarian**

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# The Chronicle

## Our Purpose:

To promote the work of New Jersey Libraries involved in the collection, organization, conservation, preservation, publication and interpretation of historical materials.

## Digitization of Montclair State Yearbooks

**Paul Martinez**

The Harry A. Sprague Library's collection Of Montclair State University yearbooks date back to 1919. The yearbooks are treasures of information about students, administrators and faculty, and the campus. The Library previously kept a full run of the yearbooks in Reference section along with a few backup copies in storage. Members of the MSU community used the collection frequently. Because of the natural wear and tear, (in some cases vandalism), our staff decided to explore digitization options. The first step was to form a task force and develop a Digital Project Plan. Following the lead of University of Maryland, Clemson, and many other colleges and universities, we decided to participate in the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative Program. LYRASIS is the nation's largest contract regional non-profit library membership organization. In the Mass Digitization Collaborative Program, LYRASIS partners with the Internet Archive, 501©(3) non-profit. Digitized yearbooks are displayed online through the Internet Archive website.

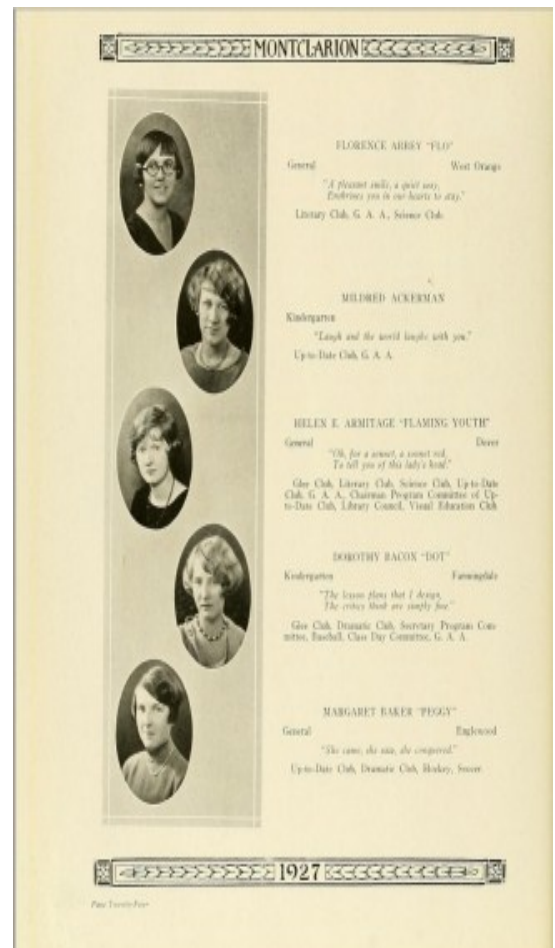
The LYRASIS program is subsidized by the Sloan Foundation, so the cost was less expensive than if we digitized the yearbooks ourselves. The Internet Archive has a scanning center in Jersey City, so we were also able to save shipping costs.

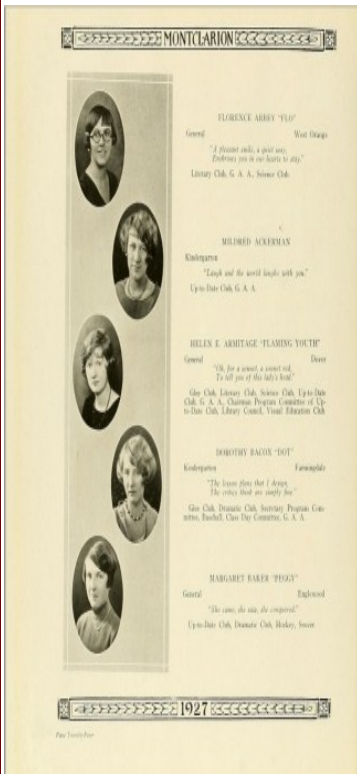
After we came up with a Digital Project Plan, we selected the best copies of the yearbooks for digitization.

The Internet Archive provided us with a metadata spreadsheet which was relatively sim-

ple to understand. We prepared our own inventory of shipping and once the yearbooks were boxed, the MSU shipping department was able to deliver them to the scanning center in Jersey City

All of the yearbooks were scanned in color from cover-to-cover. Anyone viewing the yearbooks on the Internet Archive can choose from a variety of formats including PDF, DjVu, Kindle, and a "read





## Digitization Montclair State Yearbooks cont'd. Page 1

online" flip book option. We are very happy to have them available to everyone.

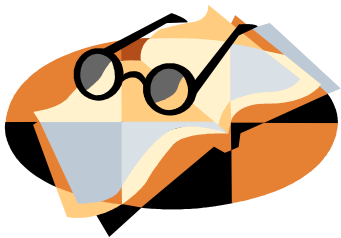
You can view the Montclair State Yearbooks online here:

<http://www.archive.org/details/montclairstateuniversity>

To find information about the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative program visit:

<http://www.lyrasis.org/massdig>.

## Plainfield Public Library, Begins Documentation of Church Records Joe Da Rold



You can choose from a variety of formats including PDF, DjVU, Kindle, and a "read online" flip book option.

*"Local churches First  
Park Baptist &  
Crescent Avenue  
Presbyterian"*

Concern from local preservationists over the run-down condition of Plainfield's Evergreen Cemetery has led to new resource material entering the Library's Local collection. Local history staff monitored the activities of the adhoc preservation group and advised them that they could contribute in two ways: 1. Host meetings; and 2. Computerize the church records.

Coincidentally, library administration had recently identified the need to launch a program of obtaining historical information from local churches. The First Park Baptist Church volunteered to lend its membership list and deceased files for the project. The records are from the 19th and early 20th century, and the cemetery turned out to be the burial grounds of some of Plainfield's most prominent citizens.

The records are currently copied and indexed by the Local History staff and volunteers. Information on each card includes the full name of parishioner with birth and death

date, full name of spouse, full name of parents, full name of children and all addresses. To date 2806 names and accompanying data have been entered into the Excel spreadsheet.

The project has attracted the attention of other churches. Crescent Avenue Presbyterian has loaned us their 1844 leather-bound volume of church records (see image below).

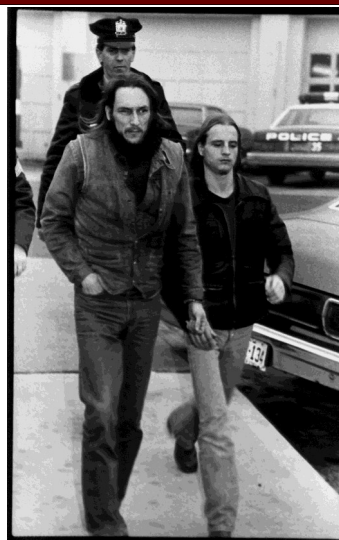


## News from Monmouth County Archives Gary Saretzky

The Monmouth County Archive is planning an exhibition in October with 40 photographs from its Red Bank Register Negative Collection. The Archives has approximately 100,000 negatives from this defunct newspaper, shot by staff photographers of New Jersey governors, music and sports celebrities, celebrations, crime, disasters, centenarians, landscapes,

local events, and other subjects, providing a window to the past of about thirty years ago. For additional information, contact Gary Saretzky 732-308-3772.

**Male Witches Appear at Court to Face Charges:** Self proclaimed witches Lance Rakowski and Charles Vanderveer arrive at court for their arraignment hearing, February 23, 1981.



*“Male witches in  
Monmouth  
County?”*

## Newark Special Collection Chad Leinaweaver

### New Acquisitions

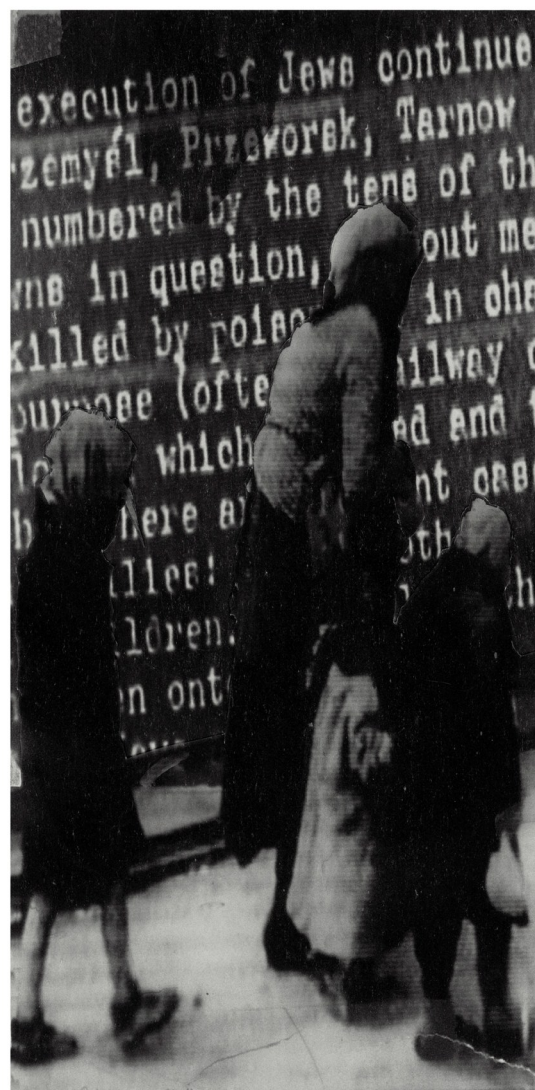
The past shopping bag exhibits of Special Collections which currently have information on the web site of the Library must have been a strong motivation for Hedeharu Tanka, a resident of Tokyo, but a shopping bag enthusiast, as she donated six Asian shopping bags to our growing collection.

[Shopping Bags] 6 bags call ca. 2010: Singapore Airlines, ca. 2010; Isetan Department Store (green and blue based) used for expt. Main store, Shinjuku, Tokyo, Men's Building; Isetan Department Store (Red and yellow and green) used for expt. main store, Shinjuku, Tokyo Men's Building; Takashimaya Department, Tokyo (white); Goncharoff (white with pig) used for St. Valentine's Day Gift; Kee Wah Bakery, Hong Kong (red) used red for Chinese New Year gift.

**N.J. based artists:** New Jersey based artist Carol Rosen who specializes in photo-collages and concentrates much of her work on the Holocaust,

donated a Collection of seven photographic collage inkjet prints: *A Walk in the woods* (2010); *Slaughter of the Innocents II* (2010); *Maman* (2010); *Warnung* (2010); *The House of Cain* (2010); *Before They Killed You* (2003); and *I Never Said Goodbye Mother* (2010). She recently had exhibitions at the College of St. Elizabeth and currently is showing work as part of *Memory: Call and response at the Printmaking Center of New Jersey*: <http://www.Printnj.org/exhibitions/current-exhibitions.php>.

New Jersey resident George Tarr, 95 donated a collection of prints to Special Collections. Tarr has been creating prints, paintings, and sculpture for many years and in fact, he did a sculpture demonstration in the Newark Public Library in the 1940's for which the sculpture still resides in his living room. Tarr, is still extremely agile and still quite prolific. He is currently doing an exhibition on the portraiture of playing cards at the Les Malamut Art Gallery at the Union Public Library in 2010: <http://lesmalamutartgallery.web.officelive.com/GeorgeTarr.aspx>.



## Newark Public Library cont'd:

### Group Visits to Special Collections

Special Collections staff hosted approximately 35 students enrolled in the course, "Introduction to Arts, Culture and Media" at Rutgers-Newark in December and hosted another group of about 15 students and faculty in January from the GlassBook course at the same campus. Organized by the university faculty members, the visits offered an opportunity for the Library staff to provide an orientation for the students about the Newark Public Library in general and the holdings of the Special Collections Division in particular. For the latter group, the students examined a variety of artists' books from our collections in order to develop ideas for their own artist's books which they will make from glass later in the course.

### Catherine Webster Ladies Home of Plainfield

One of the growth areas of the Plainfield Public Library's Local History Collections has been archival records of local clubs and agencies. When I became library director in 1994, we had holdings for about 40 organizations, some where only a folder or two. Today we have substantial holdings of 120 groups. Although not as heavily used as our photographs and blueprints, the collections are worth their weight in research material, especially for genealogists. We have been aggressive in pursuing many of these organizational archives, in particular, the Plainfield Garden Club, because they are the caretakers of the Shakespeare Garden in Cedarbrook Park, and Olmstead Brothers design. In other instances we pursue the collections when an organization has folded.

One organization of especial interest is the Ladies Home of Plainfield. The Home was established by the Last Will and Testament of Catherine Webster and incorporated in 1910. Catherine Webster was a birthright member of the Friends' Meeting and was actively identified with many charitable works in Plainfield. The Home was established by the Last Will and Testament of Catherine Webster and incorporated in 1910. Catherine Webster was a birthright member of the Friends' Meeting and was actively identified with many charitable works in Plainfield.

After unavoidable delays due to WWI and high building costs, the doors of the Catherine Webster Ladies home officially opened in the fall of 1927. Entrance requirements included:

- Any woman between the ages of sixty-five and eighty years may apply.
- Applicants must have been in reasonably good health (Doctor's slip required). etc.

The records document the Ladies Home from 1910-2007 and are pretty much what one would expect: they include minutes, programs documents, financial records, resident records, photographs, correspondence, blueprints, newspaper clippings, and assorted ephemera. But earlier this year the collection was expanded with the donation of two portraits of Catherine Webster, an Audubon print, and a hand-written family tree that goes back to 1608.



L: Rutgers- Newark students examining a variety of artists' books developing ideas to create their own glass books.

R: Rutgers-Newark students attending lecture for Glass Book Course at Newark Public Library

## Catherine Webster Ladies Home

The family tree came to us with some damage, so it was sent for review and conservation at Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA). As we looked at the lineage we were fascinated to find Catherine was apart of the Vail family, second cousin twice removed of Marjorie and Roger Vail, the sister and brother who donated to our library the family records of the Plainfield branch of the Vail family from 1772-2001. The finding aid for these records are available online at:

<http://www.plainfieldlibrary.info/>

Lee Price, Director of Development at CCAHA, has been publishing an exciting blog: <http://preservingfamilycollection.blogspot.com>, focusing on such topics as film and audio preservation. His nine-part series on preserving family history featured extensive interviews with **Joe Da Rold** about the **Plainfield Public Library's Oral History Program**.

**Advocates for New Jersey History** has announced that **Joe Da Rold** will be the recipient of the 2011 **Gail F. Stern Award**. This annual award recognizes "outstanding achievement in service to New Jersey community history, with an emphasis on cultural diversity." The

at the New Jersey State Museum as apart of the 18th Annual New Jersey History Issues Convention.

**Sarah Hull**, who has been working part-time on grant projects for Plainfield Public Library for the last two years, has been hired as a full-time Archivist. While getting to know the older parts of the collection, she recently struck gold, uncovering 17 rare items in a single box:

- An 1869 manuscript draft of the Charter for the City of Plainfield.
- A General Store ledger dated 1806.
- A Quaker Board School Report dated 1796.

**During Spring of 2011, Plainfield Public Library will offer workshops on the following topics:**

Public Workshops: Climbing Your Family Tree: Genealogy for Beginners; Care and Keeping of Family Treasures; and Caring for Your Personal Library.

Preservation Specialist **Len Cummings** will present three advanced book repair workshops for librarians and archivists who have attended previous sessions.



Goncharoff (white with pig) used for St. Valentine Gift Hong Kong