

The Chronicle



The Newsletter of the History & Preservation Section of the NJLA

NJ Library Association At “The Revel ” in A.C.



Sue
O’Neal
President
Of the
NJLA:
Said, “she
hoped we
were ex-
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cause the
NJLA
Confer-
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year was
**OUT-
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Summer 2012

Volume: 14 no.2

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July 2012 - Letter from the Outgoing President

Dear NJLA History & Preservation Section Members,

As I bid adieu to my presidential role (Adieu la Presidente!) I feel compelled to sum up our activities from this past year.

Over the course of 2011-2012 the HP section held five business meetings, a few tours, a host of programs and a hands-on workshop for the creatively motivated librarians among us. Our executive committee, members-at-large, committees and our yearly calendar are listed below:

2011-2012 Executive Board

President: Mary McMahan Morristown & Morris Township Public Library
Vice President: Paul Martinez- Sprague Library at Montclair State University
Secretary: Janet Birckhead- Long Branch Public Library
Chronicle editor: B. Joyce Watson-Dana Library, Rutgers University

Past President: Nancy Madacsi

2011-2012 Members at Large

Joseph Da Rold- Plainfield Public Library
Jessica Meyers-Plainfield Public Library
Gary Saretzky-Monmouth County Library
Elsalyn Palmisano

The Library Liaison

Michele Stricker- Deputy Director, Library Development Bureau, NJ State Library

Committees:

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Nancy Madacsi
Fred Pachman
Elsalyn Palmisano
Gary Saretzky

History and Preservation Section Committee (awards Susan G. Swartzburg Award)

Joseph Da Rold
Nancy Madacsi
Mary McMahan (ex officio)
Elsalyn Palmisano

Photograph Collections Committee

Mary Ellen Rogan
Joseph Da Rold
Gary Saretzky

Preservation Education Committee

Mary McMahan
Fred Pachman
Elsalyn Palmisano
Gary Saretzky
Michele Stricker

Programs Committee

Paul Martinez
Mary McMahan

The Constitution and By-laws Review Committee was tasked with updating the section's By-laws so that they better reflect the composition and workings of the HP Executive Board and Committees. Our intention is to present a final copy of By-Laws from which to work in order to clear up any confusion regarding the different versions that have sprung up under different administrations through the years.

The Susan G. Swartzburg Award (for outstanding work in preservation of library materials) was not awarded this year. The Swartzburg Award Committee decided that none of the applicants met the necessary criteria.

Our 2011-2012 Calendar of events and activities:

August 10, 2011 – Business Meeting and tour at **Long Branch Public Library, Long Branch, NJ.** Fourteen HP members attended the business meeting followed by a tour of the Local History Room of the Library.

October 12, 2011 – Business Meeting at **Monmouth County Library Headquarters, Manalapan, NJ.** Seventeen members attended a short business meeting held over a pizza lunch between Monmouth County Archives & History Day programs.

January 11, 2012 – Business Meeting, program entitled *Volunteers in Local History*, and a tour of **Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield NJ.** Sixteen members were in attendance.

April 4, 2012 – Business Meeting and workshop/program on *Japanese Side-Sewn Pamphlets* at the **Morristown & Morris Township Public Library, Morristown, NJ.** And a tour was given showing the newly renovated **Morristown & Morris Township Public Library after their horrendous explosion.** Fourteen members were in attendance.

May 16, 2012 – Business Meeting and tour of the **Passaic County Historical Society's archives and the castle at Lambert Castle**, both located on Garrett Mountain in Paterson. Almost twenty people were in attendance.

June 27, 2012 – Business Meeting and program, *Preserving Family Photographs*, held at **Plainfield**

The NJLA Annual Conference was held on June 4, 5 and 6th at the Revel Resort in Atlantic City, NJ. The HP Section sponsored an unprecedented four programs, all on June 5th, that consisted of:

-*The History of the Irish in New Jersey* by local New Jersey historian Thomas Fox.

-**Digital Library Toolkit: Building a Small Digital Library on a Shoestring** Presented by Rutgers SCILS candidate Miraida Morales.

-**Disaster Planning in Libraries:** Three librarians (including Michele Stricker from the New Jersey State Library) from public and academic libraries discussed aspects of successful disaster planning.

-**Basic Care & Preservation of Historical Scrapbooks:** Presented by Plainfield Public Library's archivist Sarah Hull told of the basic care and sometimes problematic preservation of historic scrapbooks.

In conclusion, the History and Preservation Section enjoyed a successful and productive year. Though my official role in serving the section has come to an end, my involvement with the group will continue in a slightly less active role. It has been a truly wonderful learning experience for me on many levels, not the least having been the many opportunities to work with library colleagues around the state.

Mary McMahan, Archivist
North Jersey History & Genealogy Center
Morristown & Morris Township Library

Editor's Note: B. Joyce Watson

The theme of NJLA Conference, June 4-6th was "Retooling 4Tommorow". And the President of NJLA said the conference is a time for, "Retooling, recharging our energy, to share with our colleagues, celebrating, and spotlighting our own work, and have some fun too."

We did just that at the NJLA conference at the beautiful Revel Resort Hotel, Atlantic City. My colleague and I arrived late Monday evening and checked in and we went to our 19th floor room. It was just fabulous and the view of the ocean/beach was spectacular.

I was too excited to go to sleep so I put my bags down and just roamed the Revel to see what it had to offer. I was not disappointed there was so much to see and do. I found this great gourmet food truck on the casino floor and they served the best tacos.

We got up early the next day and attended the H&P section discussion "The History of the Irish of New Jersey" by Thomas Fox. He told us about his book "Hidden History of the Irish of New Jersey" and how he researched and wrote about these immigrants in New Jersey.

We had two keynote speakers, R. David Lankes, Ph.D., School of Information Studies, Syracuse University Professor and Dean's Scholar for the New Librarianship was the first to speak on Tuesday. He discussed "New Librarianship and the New Promise." He said as Librarians we should be more progressive and forward thinking. As public librarians when the community comes to you to share their help, "let them help!" Share interest with each other, whether it's what movies to purchase or starting a community garden plot. Ask the questions, why is this a library? What is my role as a librarian? Build a new model, said Lankes.

The second keynote speaker was Steven Bell, Temple University Library, and Associate University Librarian "Design for the Alt-Librarian: Retooling you for a Retooled Tomorrow".

Open up yourself for getting as well as giving help. See yourself as doing great work and important things.

He referred to a few good writers and thinkers: Among them;

Bob Sutton

Dale Carnegie

Stephen Covey

Cybrary Man I

Darling Librarian

Opportunities favors the prepared. Employees need to be active and Director's set the tone of operations for any office environment.

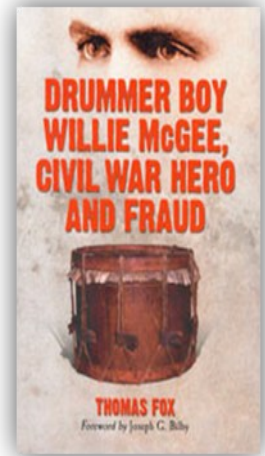
This was an excellent conference and we were so busy learning receiving and interacting with our colleagues we went home looking forward to Retooling 4 Tomorrow and next year's conference!

Hidden History of the Irish of New Jersey

Speaker: Thomas Fox, Bella Biondo Research Center, Pope John High School, Sparta, NJ

Sponsored by: NJLA History & Preservation Section

Author **Thomas Fox** treated librarians to stories about ordinary Irish people who lived extraordinary lives. While researching Willie McGee, Mr. Fox had started out only looking for a photograph and a date of death. One thing led to another and Willie's story became so fascinating that Fox turned his research into a book, "**Drummer Boy Willie McGee, Civil War Hero and Fraud**". A court-martial, Medal of Honor, presidential pardon and a murder, McGee's life was fraught with drama, controversy and lies. Mr. Fox put together the pieces of McGee's story using old letters, court records and military documents.



John Charles O'Neil was another character Mr. Fox researched. He was considered one of the great **Irish rebels** however he was born in New Jersey. O'Neil attempted three times to **invade Canada**. What he didn't know was that a British spy was one of his main confidants and his plans were passed on to the Canadians and they were ready for him. He was captured and it was later discovered that he hadn't actually set foot onto Canada since he didn't cross the demarcation line. O'Neil is another colorful character that Mr. Fox brings to life through his research.

Mr. Fox is motivated to continue researching and telling stories because he wants to make sure **the lives of ordinary Irish people** are not forgotten.

Read more about Drummer Boy Willie McGee: <http://tinyurl.com/bn9rjab>

Find on WorldCat: <http://tinyurl.com/8xyrrxf>

About the Author: Thomas Fox

"Thomas Fox has been at various times a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Sussex County Civil War Round Table, Morris County Revolutionary War Round Table, New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New Jersey Education Association, Fenian Discussion Forum and Irish Northern Aid. He has published a book, *Drummer Boy Willie McGee*, which was reviewed favorably in the *Journal of Military History*, and is a contributor to the recent book, *New Jersey Goes to War* (Longstreet). He has also conducted an extended history of the Irish surname Sionnach since 1026 (not a family history project) that has been submitted to the Irish Studies Program at Notre Dame." *NJLA Program brochure*

*Submitted by Meagan Denigris, Genealogy & Local History Librarian
Ocean County Library, Toms River Branch*

Preserving Family Photographs, " presented at the NJLA History & Preservation Section meeting on June 27. Since the introduction of photographic portrait studios in 1840, photographs have been among the most treasured of family records but, while most are long-lasting when stored optimally in archives, in the home environment, they are all too often prone to fading and discoloration. In this slide lecture, Gary Saretzky provided guidance on how the life of family photographs can be extended so that they can be passed down to future generations. He has given this lecture at libraries throughout central New Jersey.

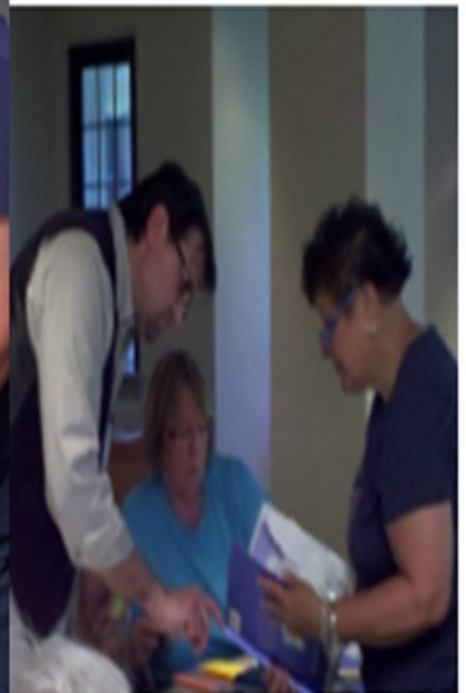
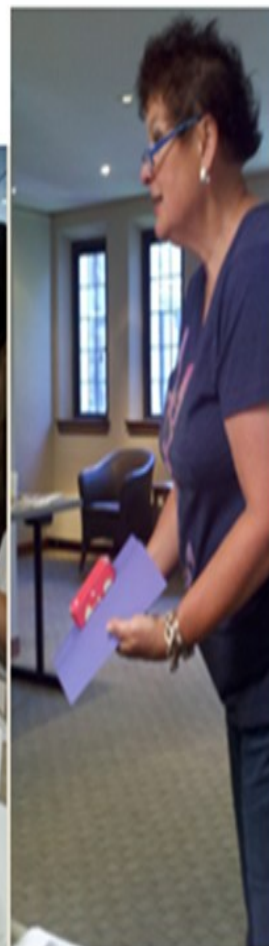
Submitted by: Gary Saretzky

Monmouth County Archives

Fifth Annual Book Art Series

With digital technologies taking the forefront in libraries, it's important for librarians and artists to keep the book arts and book making tradition alive. Digital media is a new and beautiful art form however creating handmade books is experience to be treasured and passed on to future generations. The book arts can be enjoyed by everyone!

Keeping that tradition alive is the Morristown & Morris Township Library through its Book Arts Series. I was fortunate enough to attend the Fifth Annual Book Arts Series Pop-up Book Workshop on Saturday, June 16th. Our gracious hosts, Maria Norton, Library Director, Chad Leinaweaver, Assistant Director, and Susan Gulick, retired director, welcomed students to the workshop inside the newly reopened Kirby Gallery. The Kirby gallery was a perfect setting for this workshop with its current exhibit featuring handmade books and marbled papers.



Submitted by: : Meagan Denigris Ocean County Library



H&P Members enjoying the beauty and historical presentations of Lambert Castle, Garrett Mountain, Patterson, N.J. During their tour in May.



Lambert Castle located on Garret Mountain in Paterson, NJ



NOTABLE LOCAL HISTORY TITLES

Submitted by Janet Birckhead,
Long Branch Free Public Library

Adelberg, Michael S. The American Revolution in Monmouth County: The Theatre of Spoil and Destruction. The History Press, c2010.

Adelberg points out that the diversity of Monmouth County at the time of the American Revolution made it “an anxiety-ridden, violence-prone region” in which Whigs contended with Loyalists and the disaffected, while not openly supporting England, often undermined the Whig cause by engaging in forbidden trade with London. Separate chapters cover the Taylor family of Middletown, among the most prominent Loyalists in the county, African American Loyalists, the Continental Army’s maneuvers, and Monmouth County Retaliators, who became vigilantes in support of their cause. Adelberg has devoted many years to researching the American Revolution. His essays on the subject have appeared in scholarly journals. An interesting and informative book!

Burcher, Joseph G. Remembering South Cape May: The Jersey Shore Town that Vanished into the Sea. The History Press, c2010.

The land now known as the “Meadows” and currently occupied by the Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge was once part of the town of South Cape May. In the 1880s, the area was known as Mount Vernon, after the grand hotel located there. Incorporated as South Cape May in 1894, the town was filled with houses built by architects Stephen Button and Enos Williams. Badly damaged by storms in 1903 and 1917-1918, South Cape May ceased to exist as a separate borough in 1945. Burcher, one of the town’s last residents, tells what life was like.

Fox, Tom. Hidden History of the Irish of New Jersey. The History Press, c2011.

In the introduction, Fox gives an overview of Irish emigration. He states that “at least two million Irish” immigrated to the United States between 1815 and 1915. In the remainder of the book, he tells the stories of some of these Irish immigrants who settled in New Jersey. Some fought in the American Revolution or the Civil War. Some 600, under Col. John O’Neill, fought the British Empire by invading Canada. Others were clergymen, writers, actors, boxers, baseball players, inventors, and spies. Fox tells the stories of these men. A valuable contribution to the history of New Jersey!

Gabrielan, Randall. Monmouth County Historic Landmarks. The History Press, c2011.

Each entry runs from half a page to two pages and includes a b & w photograph. Gabrielan divides Monmouth County into the Bayshore Region, the River Region, the South and the Shore Region, and the Western Region. Landmarks include parks, museums, theatres and concert halls, churches, memorials to those who have died in battle, lighthouses and life-saving stations, historical societies, one-room schoolhouses, historic houses, and other historic sites. Buy one for your circulating collection also. Once your patrons pick it up, they won’t be able to wait to start traveling!

Sherman, Ted. *The Jersey Sting: A True Story of Crooked Pols, Money-Laundering Rabbis, Black Market Kidneys, and the Informant Who Brought It All Down*. St. Martin's Press, c2011.

Monmouth County residents have been reading news stories about Solomon Dwek in the "Asbury Park Press" and the "Star Ledger" for the past several years. These stories culminated in reports of the arrest of a number of rabbis in Brooklyn, New York, and Deal, New Jersey in 2009 and 2010. Sherman and Margolin, reporters for the "Star Ledger," give us the details behind the news accounts. A well-written account of events so fantastic that a fictionalized account might not be believed, *The Jersey Sting* is a must buy.

Greason, Walter D. *The Path to Freedom: Black Families in New Jersey*. The History Press, c2010.

Greason traces the struggle of black Americans for equality from the Great Migration to the beginnings of the Civil Rights Movement. He uses the stories of three African American families to illustrate a wider pattern. Greason is an excellent speaker! I heard him at Archives Day several years ago.

McKee, Frances. Mobsters I Have Known and Loved. Wasteland Press, c2009.

In 1961, Frances McKee's husband was about to be shipped out for military service overseas and she needed a job. Coincidentally, her friend, who worked at the Landmark Hotel and Lounge in Long Branch, New Jersey, had to cut back her hours. McKee, who knew nothing about mixed drinks, started working there as a cocktail waitress on weekends. After an hilariously awful beginning, in which she hung up on a mobster because she misconstrued his nickname as an insult directed at her, McKee worked at the Landmark until 1976. She became genuinely fond of the members of the mob who were the Landmark's regulars. In this book, she recounts some of her experiences with them. An entertaining book!

McKee gave a book talk at a meeting of the Long Branch Historical Association in the fall of 2010. Although not an experienced public speaker, she is a real character. The LBHA members clearly found her very entertaining.