

New Jersey State Archives eNews

Number 3 (May 2006)

Springtime greetings from the State Archives! Much has happened since our last newsletter in December: website additions of many kinds, our *Jersey Roots III* lecture series, processing of collections, and even an unexpected archaeological discovery. We hope you will take a few minutes to peruse the exciting news items below. Please also take special note that the State Archives' and Genealogical Society of New Jersey's joint spring program on military research is being rescheduled for Fall 2006 (see *Exploring Your Jersey Roots III*). We hope to see you at this important event.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to friends and colleagues, who can subscribe directly by sending us a message at archives.news@sos.state.nj.us.

With best wishes for success in your research,

Joseph R. Klett
Chief of Archives

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Collections News

Save America's Treasures Project

Professional conservation of our Revolutionary War materials continues at the Conservation Center in Philadelphia. Several bound volumes have returned and await preservation microfilming: Damages by the British in Bergen, Burlington and Somerset Counties, 1776-1782 [three of six “Damages” volumes sent]; Letterbook of Deputy Quartermaster General Moore Furman, 1778; Order Book of British Army Officer George Crawford, 1778; and Minute Book of the Burlington County Court of General Quarter Sessions, 1764-1787. We plan to produce electronic images of the conserved documents from the new microfilm, and make the same available to researchers on the State Archives’ website. We have already added a new component to the site to celebrate our monumental *Save America's Treasures* project and to post regular updates on the status of specific collections. Kudos to Collection Manager Ellen R. Callahan and her staff for their ongoing progress on the project, and to Publications staff Lois Bredlow and Veronica Calder for the excellent website pages.

For more information visit: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/sat.html>

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West Jersey Proprietors Deposit

We have completed cataloging and preliminary finding aids for the ten collections included in the West Jersey Deposit, as well as additional map inventorying. Thanks go to the Collection Management staff for their research, analysis and inventory work. Note that our revised “Guide to Using the Records of the East and West Jersey Proprietors” has been posted to the website as a pdf file. The various updates are all linked from the West Jersey Deposit main page: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/wjp.html>.

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Preservation Microfilming

The State Archives' preservation microfilming program is actively filming manuscript collections to make them more readily accessible to the public. The following records have recently been filmed and are available for public viewing at the Archives or for purchase:

Military Records:

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| Adjutant General's Office (Civil War), U. S. Colored Troops - Volunteer Certificates, 1864. [Consult the guide to this collection here: http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sdea4016.html .] | 1 reel |
| Adjutant General's Office (Civil War), U. S. Navy - Volunteer/Enlistment Certificates, 1864-1865. [Consult the guide to this collection here: http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sdea4014.html .] | 4 reels |
| State Treasurer's Office, Military-Appropriation Payment Vouchers (Civil War), 1861-1865. [Database available in-house; online version coming soon.] | 52 reels |
| Secretary of State's Office, Statistics of Orphanage resulting from the Civil War, 1865-1867. [Consult the guide to this collection here: http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sstse016.html . These records are currently being abstracted in <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> .] | 1 reel |
| New Jersey National Guard, Essex Troop Ledger No. 1, 1894-1895. | 1 reel |
| New Jersey National Guard, Officers' Descriptive Cards, 1909-1917. [Consult the guide to this collection, including a list of the officers, here: http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sdeng006.html .] | 1 reel |

Other Records:

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| Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Delaware and Raritan Canal Agreements, 1874-1940. [Consult the guide to this collection here: http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/ppenn001.html .] | 4 reels |
| Perth Amboy City, Vital Statistics, 1854-1895. [Cataloging pending.] | 2 reels |
| State Treasurer's Office, Registers of Payments for Pensioners, Pupils in Charitable Institutions and Salaries of State Officers, 1821-1870. [Additional records in this series were filmed previously. For a guide to this collection, see http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/ststr009.html . Note that these registers include accounts of payments to Revolutionary War state pensioners.] | 1 reel |
| East Jersey Proprietors, Extracts of Surveys, Book No. 1 (Black Book), 1719-1801. | 1 reel |
| Joseph Johnston, Day Book (Lebanon Township, Hunterdon County), 1818-1819. | 1 reel |
| <i>Ocean County Leader</i> [newspaper], 1954-1961. | 18 reels |

Filming projects currently underway include Sussex County naturalization records, 1817-1958; Civil War "copy books" (muster and bounty rolls), 1861-1865; and the federal 1880 "Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes" census schedule for New Jersey. Many other microfilming projects are planned. Stay tuned for future updates!

To order duplicate microfilm reels from the State Archives, please contact Gregory J. Gill at 609-984-3296 or e-mail gregory.gill@sos.state.nj.us.

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Recent Accessions

For information about donating or transferring records to the State Archives, contact Collection Manager Ellen R. Callahan at archives.collections@sos.state.nj.us and/or consult our *Collecting Policy* at <http://www.njarchives.org/links/collecting-policy.html>. The recent acquisitions listed below are especially noteworthy for their potential research value.

For genealogy:

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| 2006.014 | Colonial marriage license of John Hollinshead of Burlington City to Hapseba Thomas of Evesham Township, Burlington County, 8 September 1788. |
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For cultural resources studies and local history:

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| 2006.002 | Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the Potterstown Road Bridge over Rockaway Creek in Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, 2005. |
| 2006.005 | New Jersey Historical Commission oral history project transcripts: "The Atlantic City Project" conducted by Dr. Jamie Karmel, Hartford Community College, Bel Air, MD. This project investigated the impact of casino gambling on the citizens and casino workers of the Atlantic City region from 1978 to 2004. |
| 2006.006 | Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the Frankfurt Avenue Bridge, Galloway Township, Atlantic County, 2006. This structure is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. |
| 2006.015 | Historical study of Lafayette Gardens Public Housing, Jersey City, Hudson County, 2004. Prepared prior to the demolition of site in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. |
| 2006.016 | Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation on the Alexander Road Bridge, West Windsor Township, Mercer County, 2006. |

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Website News

Searchable Databases

We are excited to announce the posting of our third online database, which indexes the state's

marriage returns from the beginning of the period of state-level filing, 1 May 1848, through the end of May 1867. The search engine provides access to over 70,000 marriage entries from all counties. We ask for your patience when searching, as we know that the currently available website software can be very slow. We are implementing hardware and software upgrades and hope to vastly improve search capabilities (including speed and reporting parameters) during the upcoming months.

Special acknowledgement goes to the following Archives staff for their major efforts to post this data: Vivian Thiele, for her database development work; Cheri Wortmann, in particular, along with Edna Velez, Sarah Boyer and Laurice Niceler, for countless hours of data entry over a period of several years; Sean Curry for his past contributions to developing the database; and Veronica Calder and Lois Bredlow for their html work.

Access the online database at: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/marriagedb1867.html>

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Imaged Collections

In March, we added two new imaged collections to the State Archives' website, including our first scanned manuscript collection. These are two of the largest collections posted to date, bringing the total number of images available online to over 1,700:

Adjutant General's Office (Civil War), United States Colored Troops - Service Files, ca. 1862-1870s
(284 images of service records of New Jersey's black soldiers)
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sdea4015.html>

Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, Photographs Filed by Subject, ca 1930s-1970s (322 images of state historic sites, structures and parks)
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/senpa001.html>

Special thanks go to Publications Unit staff members Joanne M. Nestor and Lois Bredlow for their excellent scanning and website work, respectively.

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Documentary Treasures

Historians and educators will be interested to see that we have posted images and transcriptions of the original (signed) New Jersey state constitutions of 1844 and 1947, linked from the following page:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/constitution.html>

Kudos to website geniuses Veronica Calder and Lois Bredlow, scanning mavens Joanne Nestor, John Chepega and Dan Noonan, and adjunct proofreader Ellen Callahan, for their concerted and most excellent work to create these beautiful pages.

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Guides to Collections

As of May 2006, a total of 977 guides to collections have been posted to the State Archives' website. The following substantial finding aids, of special interest for research, were added recently:

Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Inc., Aerial Negatives and Prints of New Jersey Sites, 1946-1949, 1951 & 1957

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/pfair001.html>

Batsto Iron and Glass Works, Account Books (Arthur D. Pierce Collection), 1821-1881

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/pbats001.html>

Mercer County Engineer's Office, Aerial Photographs, 1925-1940

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/cmeen001.html>

Work Projects Administration (WPA), New Jersey Writer's Project, Ethnological Survey Records, 1935-1939

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/fwpmw001.html>

Also, as noted above, preliminary guides and inventories for the West Jersey Proprietors collection are linked from the following catalog page:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/ppropri.html>

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Events and Outreach

Exploring Your Jersey Roots III

NOTE: The State Archives and Genealogical Society of New Jersey have announced that the June 3rd program has been canceled.

This Wednesday's presentation concludes the evening lectures in our series *Exploring Your Jersey Roots III*, which began on April 26th in co-sponsorship with the Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ). Our *Jersey Roots* finale, which is also GSNJ's Spring Program, is planned for Saturday, June 3rd. The all-day event will include two tracks: one featuring four presentations on military research, the other an "Ask the Experts" track including both panel discussions and one-on-one sessions with genealogical professionals. The event will occur at the State Archives and State Museum Auditorium during Trenton's Heritage Days Festival, which features a street fair, performances and various activities for children. Genealogical vendors will be present and *BooksNJ: The Capitol Bookstore* will be offering a 10% discount off all book purchases. Note also that the State Library will be open for research throughout

the course of the day. To register or for more information on the June 3rd program, visit: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/jersey-roots3.html>.

Thanks go to Archivist Veronica Calder and GSNJ's Program Chair Casey Zahn for coordinating the series; Laurice Niceler, Cheri Wortmann and the Archives' Reference Unit for staffing the Microfilm Reading Room during our extended hours; and to GSNJ President Joan Lowry and the Board of Trustees for their support and participation. Finally, many thanks to the lecturers for their presentations:

John W. Konvalinka, Internet Sources for New Jersey Genealogy, 4/26

Joseph R. Klett, Using the Records of the East and West Jersey Proprietors, 5/3

Cheri C. Wortmann, The New Face of FamilySearch.org, 5/10

Bette M. Epstein, Tracing Your Recent Immigrant Family at the New Jersey State Archives, 5/17

Catherine Wilkinson Zahn, Genealogy for Kids: Activities and Projects to Celebrate Family History, 5/24

Catherine Stearns Medich, Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestor at the New Jersey State Archives, coming 6/3!

MSgt. Richard Baker, Researching Genealogy at the U.S. Army Military History Institute, coming 6/3!

Veronica L. Calder & Vivian E. Thiele, Website & Database Sources for Military Research ..., coming 6/3!

Larry Fermi, Uncle Sam Wants You! Twentieth-Century Military Research, coming 6/3!

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1796 Archives Uncovered

On April 6th, the State Archives' staff and constituents enjoyed a fun and quite unanticipated press event celebrating the discovery of the foundations of the original State Archives building beneath the foreground of the present State House. The 1796 structure housed the vaults of the Secretary of State and Supreme Court Clerk, containing the core of the present State Archives' colonial record holdings. It was the second public office building to be constructed by the State, following the 1792 State House. Karl J. Niederer, Division Director and master of ceremonies, planned the event in coordination with Hunter Research Associates, the site archaeologists. Remarks were given by representatives of all three branches of state government, including Secretary of State Nina Mitchell Wells, Supreme Court Clerk Stephen W. Townsend, and State Senator Leonard Lance. Archaeologist Ian Burrow, representing Hunter Research Associates, entertained the crowd with his references to how the State Archives' own collections were used to locate and map the 1796 structure's stone walls as well as its intact privy pit. As Burrow noted, "we're using the archives in the Archives to help us find the physical Archives in the ground that once held the archives that are now in the Archives!"

For the full story, visit: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/1796archives.html>

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SHRAB Workshops

The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) is offering a series of workshops throughout the state relating to use and care of historical materials. The series is cosponsored by the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and the Genealogical Society of New Jersey, with partial funding by the New Jersey Historical Commission. Topics include:

Religious Archives (6/8 in Madison and 11/10 in Burlington)
County Archives: Reference Services (6/10 in Woodbury and 10/11 in Manalapan)
Grants, CAPES and Fundraising (6/14 in Princeton and 11/6 in Trenton)
Preserving Family Pictures and Papers (10/10 in Trenton)
Managing Archival Collections (10/12 in Woodbury)

For more information visit: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/shrabworkshops.html>

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Archives in Print and Media

The following journal articles have recently featured materials from the State Archives:

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| "Ancient Documents Reopen New Jersey's Colonial History" by Karl J. Niederer. <i>New Jersey Heritage Magazine</i> 5:56-8, Winter 2006. |
| "1870 US Census Mortality Schedules: Essex County" [cont'd] by Janet T. Riemer and Sean A. Curry. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:38-46, January 2006. Installment includes the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth wards of the City of Newark. |
| "New Jersey's Civil War Orphans, 1865-1871" [cont'd] by Joseph R. Klett. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:18-26, January 2006. Installment includes Ocean and Passaic counties, and part of Salem. |
| "New Jersey Supreme Court Cases, 1704-1760" [cont'd] by Thomas B. Wilson. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:27-36, January 2006. |
| "Sporting Away Their Precious Times: An Account of a Multiple Drowning in 1789" by Ellen R. Callahan. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:36-7, January 2006. Transcribes account of incident at Sandy Hook. |
| "The who, when and where of New Jersey Vital Records, Part I - Birth Records" by Joan M. Lowry. <i>GSNJ Newsletter</i> 15:10-13, Jan/Feb/Mar 2006. A comprehensive guide to the records held by the State Archives and by the Department of Health. |

Also note that the article "An Account of East Jersey's Seven Settled Towns, circa 1684" published in the September 2005 issue of *The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey* has been posted to the State Archives' website at: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/pdf/pasevensettledtowns.pdf>. The article features a transcription from proprietary governor Robert Barclay's record book acquired by the State last year.

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Tales from the Search Rooms

Betty Childs Klaviter of Lansing, MI, wrote us about her recent genealogical discoveries at the State Archives, with staff assistance from Laurice Niceler. The challenge was to locate the marriage and death information of a relative, Mrs. Marie Smith, who was known to have died in New Jersey sometime in 1894. Through estate papers, Marie's residence and husband's name were found, leading to discovery of the marriage record, her death certificate as well as that of her husband, and other documentation. Ms. Klaviter: we look forward to your next visit. We're sure there's more to find!

Reference Archivist Catherine Medich recounted an interesting Search Room experience in which a patron visiting from upstate New York discovered four newspaper accounts of her husband's great-grandfather's death in 1912. The genealogical windfall began with a search in Sussex County Coroner's papers, which included an original death certificate apparently not filed with the State's vital records. This revealed that the ancestor died after falling from a barn during an attempt to escape from the county almshouse! While it wasn't what the patron had expected to learn, she was thrilled nonetheless.

Many thanks to patrons and staff for taking time to send these tales. Keep 'em coming!

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Upcoming Presentations

The State Archives staff regularly present lectures to local historical and genealogical groups, including the lectures developed for the "Exploring Your Jersey Roots" series. Upcoming presentations include:

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| 6/7 | "Tracing Your Pre-Civil War Family at the New Jersey State Archives" to be presented by Catherine Stearns Medich to the Ocean County Genealogical Society, Toms River Library, Toms River, NJ. |
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| 9/6 | "Tracing Your Post-Civil War Immigrant Family" to be presented by Catherine Stearns Medich to the Ocean County Genealogical Society, Toms River Library, Toms River, NJ. |
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| 9/13 | "Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestor at the New Jersey State Archives" to be presented by Catherine Stearns Medich for the Captain Joshua Huddy Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, Toms River, NJ. |
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| 10/10 | "Preserving Family Pictures and Papers" to be presented by Joanne M. Nestor and Janet T. Riemer as part of the State Historical Records Advisory Board workshop series, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, NJ, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. For more information, go to: http://www.njarchives.org/links/shrabworkshops.html . |
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| 10/12 | “Managing Archival Collections” to be presented by Joseph R. Klett and Ellen R. Callahan as part of the State Historical Records Advisory Board workshop series, Gloucester County Historical Society, Woodbury, NJ, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. For more information, go to: http://www.njarchives.org/links/shrabworkshops.html . |
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For a list of possible lectures by Archives staff, contact us at archives.reference@sos.state.nj.us.

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2006 PARIS Awards

On May 18th, the State Records Committee announced grants totaling \$27.8 million awarded to county and municipal archives and records programs for the 2006-07 grant period. This is the second funding cycle of the Division’s Public Archives and Records Infrastructure Support (PARIS) Grants Program. Funded projects range from professional conservation, indexing and imaging of ancient manuscripts to implementation of electronic records systems and improvements to law enforcement data networks. For more information about this year’s awards and projects, visit: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/paris.html>.

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Bookstore News

Special Events

The Water Works Conservancy and honorary hosts from the New Jersey Legislature cordially invite you to celebrate New Jersey history at BooksNJ on Thursday, June 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event will feature a book signing of *The Hackensack Water Works* by author Clifford W. Zink, winner of the 2004 New Jersey and Bergen County historic preservation awards and a National Book Award nominee. Please RSVP to the Water Works Conservancy at info@HWWC.org or 201-967-0133 ext. 3.

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New Titles at BooksNJ

The titles listed below have been added recently to the sales inventory of *BooksNJ: The Capital Bookstore*, a joint operation of the State Archives and New Jersey Historical Commission in management partnership with the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. For the store’s full catalog of New Jersey historical and genealogical resources in print and other media, visit www.booksnj.com. BooksNJ is open for business at 225 West State Street (State

Archives Building), Trenton, NJ 08625. Currently, regular hours are Monday-Friday, 11:00-3:00 (except State holidays). Credit card orders can be placed by telephone at 609-943-4444.

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| Chorozewski. <i>New Jersey, A 25 Year Photographic Retrospective</i> . (2005). Hard cover, 180 p. |
| <i>Map of Trenton, 1850</i> [reproduction]. |
| <i>Map of Burlington County, 1858</i> [reproduction]. |
| Miller. <i>On the Waterfront: The Great Ships of Hoboken</i> . (2005). Soft cover, 104 p. |
| Pepe. <i>Freehold: A Hometown History [The Making of America Series]</i> . (2003). Soft cover, 160 p. |
| Reussille. <i>Steam Vessels Built in Old Monmouth, 1841-1894</i> . (1975). Hard cover, 161 p. |
| Rieth, Regan and Rowe. <i>Jersey Shore Fire Apparatus – Volume I: Classics thru the 60's</i> . Soft cover, 96 p. |

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