

New Jersey State Archives eNews

Number 4 (December 2007)

It's been over a year since our last *eNews*, so we have a lot to catch up on. We apologize for the hiatus—we've just been so busy there has been no time to stop and write about it!

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. We have nearly 700 subscribers on the list as of this posting.

Wishing you happy holidays, and (as always) success in your research,

Joseph R. Klett
Chief of Archives

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Collections News

“Save America’s Treasures” Project Update

The State Archives’ major project to conserve over 5,200 leaves of Revolutionary War manuscripts is now in its third year. The Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia, the contracted conservator for the work, has treated several collections—some of which were microfilmed or re-filmed by the State Archives as part of the process. Specifically, the following record series (or portions of them) have been returned to the Archives and are now available for research:

- Moore Furman / Correspondence, 1776-1785 [loose material only]
- Salem County / Court of Common Pleas / Executions to Sell Real Estate of Loyalists, 1778-1779
- Essex County / Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace / Shopkeepers’ Petitions and Licenses, 1781
- Middlesex County / Petitions for Shopkeepers’ Licenses, 1781
- Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection – Court of Oyer & Terminer records, 1775-1783
- Bureau of Archives and History Manuscript Collection – Militia Papers, 1775-1785

State Archives Collection Manager Ellen Callahan oversees the project, with support from archivists Janet Jackson and Vivian Thiele. For more details about the records to be conserved and regular updates on the status of specific collections, please see our “Saving America’s Treasures...” website main page at <http://www.njarchives.org/links/sat.html>, and the conservation timeline linked from it.

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Black Family Papers Accession

In June 2006, William T. Black Jr. donated an incredible treasure of family papers, maps, and Burlington County tax and militia records to the New Jersey State Archives. This cache of manuscripts, spanning three centuries, was preserved and passed down through the generations of the Black and Newbold families, prominent early settlers of Chesterfield Township and vicinity. Mr. Black’s generous and public-minded gift will ensure the long-term preservation of this remarkable collection and at the same time make the documents accessible to the many thousands of researchers who use the State Archives each year.

The donation includes parchment indentures and estate papers from 1684-1845, business ledgers from 1776-1904, official records of Burlington County Tax Collector John Black from 1781-1813, a small collection of militia papers from 1797-1804, and maps and drawings from as early as 1780. The State Archives frequently redirects potential donations of family papers to other repositories. However, in this case, the collection included important 18th- and early-19th-century government papers and numerous colonial-period land records. Among the taxation records, for example, are several hitherto unknown Burlington County tax ratable lists from the late 1700s. Given the nature of the material and how it relates to records already in the State Archives, accepting the collection was an easy decision.

Janet Jackson, under the supervision of Ellen Callahan, is describing the collection in detail and arranging the documents in archival housings—a process begun by Mr. Black prior to donation. A preliminary inventory is available in the State Archives’ Manuscript Reading Room.

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Preservation Microfilming

The State Archives is actively microfilming manuscript collections to preserve them and make them more readily accessible to the public. The following records have been filmed recently under the supervision of Archivist Gregory J. Gill and/or through the excellent work of Dave Mookerjee. The film is now available for use in the Archives' Microfilm Reading Room and can also be purchased.

Federal Records:

U.S. Census Bureau / 1880 Federal Census for New Jersey – Schedule for “Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Classes”	5 reels
U.S. Census Bureau / 1860 Federal Census for New Jersey – Essex County, Newark, Ward 12 [<i>state copy</i>]	1 reel

Note that the Genealogical Society of New Jersey (GSNJ) plans to index the 1880 “DDD” Schedule. If you are interested in volunteering to index a section of this statewide return, please contact Michelle Chubenko through GSNJ's website at www.gsnj.org. Note, also, that a copy of the new microfilm was provided to the National Archives and Records Administration, which did not have film of this schedule previously.

“Save America Treasures” project-related filming:

Legislature / Inventories of Damages by the British and Americans in New Jersey, 1776-1782	3 reels
Burlington County / Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace / Minutes, vol. 2, 1764-1787	1 reel
New Jersey Council of Safety/ Minute Book, 1777-1778	1 reel
Moore Furman (1728-1808) / Correspondence: Letter Book, 1778-1783	1 reel
Department of Defense / Adjutant General's Office (Revolutionary War) / Loyalist Manuscripts: George Crawford Order Book, 1776-1783	1 reel

Other Records:

Council of Proprietors of West New Jersey / Surveys and Warrants: Extracts of Surveys Vol. 31, 1681-1900	1 reel
Council of Proprietors of West New Jersey / Rules & Regulations, 1688-1865	1 reel
Council of Proprietors of West New Jersey / Lawrence Division Line Journal & Notes, 1743-1751 and Map, ca. 1777	1 reel
Governor's War Cabinet / Minutes, 1942-1944	1 reel
Black Family / Lesson Book, 1767 & 1803-1804 [<i>original returned to donor</i>]	1 reel
Batsto Glass and Iron Works / Isaac Cramer Accounts, 1816-1845	1 reel
Pequannock Township (Morris County) / Committee / Minutes, 1867-1898	2 reels

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

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1895 Census Available Online

In November 2007, the State Archives allowed The Generations Network to post images of the 1895 New Jersey State Census—created from microfilm of originals owned by the State—to its well-known website, www.ancestry.com. While the images are not currently of optimal quality and the index is, consequently, incomplete for certain unreadable sections, the release of this data nevertheless will be an important boost for genealogists looking for families in 1895 for most areas of the state. State Archives management and representatives of The Generations Network are working together to find ways to improve these census images online and complete the indexing.

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New Acquisitions

The recent acquisitions listed below are especially noteworthy for their potential research value. 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>.

For genealogy:

2006.029	Essex County records recovered by Robert Williams, including: records, maps & drawings of the Essex County Penitentiary, ca. 1915-1970; patient death files, Essex County Hospital for the Insane, Overbrook, 1892-1927; incomplete volumes of chattel mortgages, 1898 & 1904.
2006.044	Accounts and receipts of Burlington County Tax Collector John Black, 1785-1813.
2006.049	Records of the Mercer County Clerk's Office, including: bonds of sheriffs, 1895-1952; certificates to reimburse old-age relief, ca. 1936-1959; Circuit Court minutes, 1916-1921; Corporations A, 1847-1885; Mechanics' Liens, 1853-1969; incorporations of religious societies, 1843-1961. See accession inventory.
2006.054	Records of the New Jersey Veterans' Memorial Home – Menlo Park, including: ledger books, 1864-1868; scrapbooks, 1943 & 1902-1988; etc.
2007.011	Black and Newbold Family records: parchment deeds, 1684-1845; Burlington County Militia (3 rd Regiment) records, 1797-1804; miscellaneous land records, 1600s-1800s; ledgers, 1759-1905.

For cultural resources studies and local history:

2006.025	"Preserving the Pinelands by Governor Brendan T. Byrne" [official copies of material documenting the preservation of the New Jersey pinelands presented to Gov. Byrne in August 1981].
2006.020	Maps and drawings from the Black and Newbold families: 8 wall maps, 1825-1917; 8 maps, 1780s-1916; barn plans, 1950s [2 drawings]; lithograph of Declaration of Independence, 1856.
2006.030	Photographs of Essex County Penitentiary in North Caldwell and the Newark Street (Essex County) Jail in Newark, taken by Robert Williams in 2006 [288 photographs]. Includes interior and exterior views of the buildings and grounds as well as B&W copy prints of 1914 photographs of the buildings and prisoners.

2006.035	Miscellaneous records of New Jersey Transit Corporation and predecessor companies, ca. 1913-1985.
2006.051	Project description, summary narrative, and interviews from New Jersey Historical Commission's grant-funded oral history project "The One Room School Experience" produced for the Delaware Township Historical Society.
2007.002	Sanborn Insurance Atlas of Camden, 1926 (including updates from 1927-1949); Department of Conservation and Economic Development Topographical Atlas of New Jersey, sheets 21-37, 1926. [Received from the Department of Transportation.]

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Website News

Online Databases

Since our last *eNews*, State Archives staff and management have invested much time and effort to improve online access to our databases. We are very pleased to announce that a far more powerful search engine has been developed for the three databases previously posted to our site: New Jersey Marriages, 1848-1867; New Jersey Marriages, 1666-1799; and Supreme Court Case Files, 1704-1844. State Archives website users can now enjoy much faster searches and can also sort the results by field (e.g., by place or date in addition to name). Check out the new search engine here:

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

Reaching this milestone now allows us to focus our efforts on posting new data to our site. We anticipate that during the upcoming months we will unveil online access to databases indexing:

- Passaic County and Atlantic City portions of the 1885 State Census (completed by volunteers)
- New Jersey's Civil War vouchers (documenting soldiers' pay and discharges, subsistence paid to wives and widowed mothers, payments to surviving relatives, etc.)
- Name-change judgments (statewide), 1847-1947
- East Jersey Proprietors' surveys, late 1600s-20th-c.

We would like to publicly acknowledge the ingenuity and perseverance of Archivist Vivian Thiele in the development of our improved search engine. Vivian went far beyond the call of duty as an archivist to train herself in the programming and IT skills required to get this job done. We also acknowledge John Flood of the State's Office of Information Technology for his instrumentality and cooperation.

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Imaged Collections

Website users will find that several Imaged Collections were added to our site during the last year, including:

Hunterdon County / Clerks Office / Manumissions of Slaves, 1788-1836 (57 images of Hunterdon County slave freedom papers):

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/chncl003.html>

Department of State / Secretary of State's Office / Oaths of Office of Governors and Acting Governors, 1790-2006 (68 images of original gubernatorial oaths):
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sstse007.html>

Department of Law and Public Safety / New Jersey State Police / Copies of Evidence Photographs, Trial of Richard Bruno Hauptmann for the Kidnapping of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr., 1935 (22 images of State's evidence used during the sensational trial):
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/slcsp001.html>

Governor's War Cabinet / Minutes, 1942-1944 (515 pages documenting New Jersey civil defense activities during 1942-1944):
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/szwaa001.html>

Department of Institutions and Agencies / New Jersey State Prison at Trenton / Inmate File #17400 – Bruno Richard Hauptmann, 1934-1965 (63 images, including Hauptmann's "mug shot"):
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sintr003.html>

Cleveland Family / Records, 1838-ca. 1909 (52 images of letters, photos and memorabilia of Grover Cleveland and his family):
<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/pclev001.html>

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Documentary Treasures

We have expanded our "Documentary Treasures" site extensively since our last *eNews*. We added a new area celebrating New Jersey's original federal charters, which were digitally scanned in August 2006. This includes New Jersey's ratification of the United States Constitution and its original Bill of Rights. In addition, we've added the full minutes of the State's 1787 ratification convention and the legislative actions (ratification or otherwise) relative to the 27 federal constitutional amendments. In all, the added material comprises 170 new web-pages of images, transcriptions and constitutional history. We hope these pages will be a useful online resource for historians, educators, librarians and archivists. Check it all out starting here:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/treasures/usconstitutionmenu.html>

We've also added a site featuring our digitization adventure at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia's Regional Digital Imaging Center, here:

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

Lastly, we've unveiled a new site exhibiting King George III's 1762 appointment of William Franklin as the last royal governor of the Colony of New Jersey. These pages include images and transcriptions of the parchment commission document as well as the compelling letter of transmittal from the Crown of Great Britain. The manuscript was presented to the State of New Jersey in 1861. Here's the URL:

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/treasures/oaths/franklin.html>

We would like to acknowledge the excellent work of Veronica L. Calder, Lois Bredlow and Joanne M. Nestor, who produced these pages with assistance from other members of the State Archives staff. Their enthusiasm and creativity enabled a wonderful expansion of our Internet presence.

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Guides to Collections

As of December 2007, close to 1,000 guides to collections have been posted to the State Archives' website. The following substantial finding aids, of special interest for research, were added since our last issue:

Administrative Office of the Courts / Portraits of Court Officials, 1973-1979

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sad00001.html>

Department of Institutions and Agencies / *Welfare Reporter* [incomplete], 1946-1957

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sin00002.html>

Department of Labor / Division of Workplace Standards / Office of Safety Compliance / Plans and Elevations of Abandoned Mines, 1870-1899

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/slaws001.html>

Department of Institutions and Agencies / Leesburg State Prison / Photograph Album of Medium Security Facility, ca. 1969-1970

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sinle001.html>

Department of Education / Rules Concerning Teacher Certification [Handbooks], 1901-1950

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sed00002.html>

Department of Education / Mercer County Superintendent of Schools / Teacher Certification Card File, 1890s-1970s

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sedme001.html>

Department of Education / Mercer County Superintendent of Schools / Public School Directories, 1897-1960

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sedme002.html>

Department of Education / Mercer County Superintendent of Schools / School District Reports on Schoolhouses, Evening Schools, Lectures, Libraries, etc., 1910-1911

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sedme003.html>

Department of Education / Mercer County Superintendent of Schools / School Building Election Circulars, 1949 & 1951

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/sedme004.html>

Department of Environmental Protection / Division of Parks, Forestry and Recreation / Aerial Photographs of Lake Hopatcong State Park, 1970

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/senpa002.html>

State Board of Health - Department of Health / Annual Reports, 1874-1975

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/she00002.html>

Department of Health / *Public Health News*, 1915-1971

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/she00003.html>

Department of Transportation / Division of Project Development / Bureau of Environmental Analysis / Views of Weymouth, Atlantic County, 1880s-ca. 1980

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/strpr001.html>

Governor's War Cabinet / Minutes, 1942-1944

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/guides/szwaa001.html>

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Events and Outreach

Archives in Print and Media

The following publications and exhibits have made extensive use of photographs and documents from New Jersey State Archives:

<i>Legal and Colonial History of Perth Amboy</i> . Permanent exhibition at the Middlesex County Courthouse, New Brunswick, NJ, created by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission and opened in Fall 2006.
<i>Historic Photos of Jersey Shore</i> by Joseph Czachowski (Nashville, TN: Turner Publishing Co., 2007).
<i>Murders in Monmouth: Capital Crimes from the Jersey Shore's Past</i> by George Joynson (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2007).
<i>Union County Sesquicentennial Exhibition</i> at the Union County Courthouse, Elizabeth, NJ. Division Director Karl Niederer participated in ceremonies on 29 October 2006.

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

“Joseph Woodruff of Acquackanonck” by Thomas B. Wilson. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:78-79 (May 2006). Abstracts hitherto unpublished estate records from 1758-1759 and discusses Woodruff’s service in the French and Indian War.
“Kingwood Township and its Founding Fathers” by Fred Sisser III. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:79-80 (May 2006). Transcribes 1748 petition of inhabitants of Hunterdon County requesting that Kingwood be chartered.
“New Jersey’s Civil War Orphans, 1865-1871” by Joseph R. Klett. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:81-88 & 119-128 (May & September 2006). Installments include Salem (continued) through Warren counties and an addendum for Plumsted Twp., Ocean Co., thus concluding the serial article.
“1870 U.S. Census Mortality Schedules: Essex County, New Jersey” by Janet T. Riemer and Sean A. Curry. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:89-96 & 135-144 (May & September 2006), 82:41-47 (January 2007). Installments include the 10 th -12 th wards of Newark and the towns of Orange, South Orange, West Orange and Woodside.
“New Jersey Supreme Court Cases, 1704-1760” by Thomas B. Wilson. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:129-134 (September 2006) & 82:89-95 (May 2007). Installments include cases from B-versus-W to C-versus-A.
“John Hollinshead and Hepsaba Thomas” by Catherine Stearns Medich. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 81:144 (September 2006). Transcribes hitherto unpublished marriage license.
“Young Daniel Richards’ Misfortune” by Fred Sisser III. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 82:47 (January 2007). Transcribes a 1727 entry from the Essex County Court of Common Pleas minutes.
“1870 U.S. Census Mortality Schedules: Sussex County, New Jersey” by Alexander D. Everitt Jr. and C. Arthur Lawton III. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 82:50-58 (May 2007).
“Essex County Apprentices and their Masters, 1725-26” by Fred Sisser III. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 82:58 (May 2007). Relates to the Allerton, Keirgly, Willis and Shotwell families.
“Accounts of the Estate of Christopher Hoogeland of Windsor, 1763” by Thomas B. Wilson. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 82:59-69 (May 2007). Abstracts extensive lists of names from hitherto unpublished estate accounts.

<p>“1870 U.S. Census Mortality Schedules: Middlesex County, New Jersey” by James A. Jolly and Pamelyn P. Bush. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 82:117-126 (September 2007). Installment includes East Brunswick through Perth Amboy.</p>
<p>“Accounts Regarding the Barracks at Burlington, 1758-1760” by Thomas B. Wilson. <i>The Genealogical Magazine of New Jersey</i> 82:139-144 (September 2007). Abstracts accounts listing men and women who were paid for work, services and supplies relative to the construction of this French and Indian War-period barracks.</p>
<p>“The Who, When and Where of New Jersey Vital Records: Marriage Records 1848-1878” by Joan M. Lowry. <i>GSNJ Newsletter</i> 16:17, 22-23 (April-May-June 2007).</p>
<p>The digitization of New Jersey State Archives’ original Bill of Rights was featured in <i>The Athenaeum of Philadelphia: 190th and 191st Annual Reports, 2005-2006</i>.</p>

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New Presentations

During 2006-2007, State Archives staff members presented several sessions at professional conferences in the Mid-Atlantic region, as follows:

- At the Fall 2006 Meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) in Morristown, NJ, State Archives Collection Manager Ellen R. Callahan co-presented in “Saving America’s Treasures... One Document at a Time” on October 27th.
- At the same meeting, Chief of Archives Joseph R. Klett planned and Division Director Karl J. Niederer chaired a session entitled “Lemon Juice and Hair Dryers: The Impact of *National Treasure* on Archives, Freemasons and Historic Sites” also on October 27th.
- Division of Archives and Records Management archivists Sean A. Curry and Joanne Seitter co-presented and chaired, respectively, a session on “Local Government Records Grant Programs” also on October 27th.
- At the Spring 2007 Meeting of MARAC in Scranton, PA, Archivist Vivian E. Thiele co-presented in a session entitled “You Want Me to Wear What? Experiences as Foreigners in Archives” on April 20th.
- At the same meeting, Mr. Niederer chaired a session on “Status of National Emergency Preparedness Initiatives in the Mid-Atlantic Region” also on April 20th.
- At the same meeting, Mr. Klett chaired a session “Now What Do We Do With It? Acquisition and Use of Large Industrial Collections” also on April 20th.
- At the Fall 2007 Meeting of MARAC in Williamsburg, VA, Mr. Klett co-presented in a session entitled “Colonial Records in State and Federal Hands” on November 2nd.
- At the same meeting, Archivist Catherine Stearns Medich co-presented and Mr. Niederer chaired a session on “Archives in the Service of Public Archaeology and Public History” also on November 2nd.
- On November 30th, Mr. Klett presented “A Tale of Two Provinces: Recent Colonial Acquisitions at the New Jersey State Archives”—his segment in the MARAC session at Williamsburg—to the History and Preservation Section of the New Jersey Library Association in Trenton.

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Upcoming Events

State Archives staff member regularly provide lectures to local historical and genealogical groups, including the presentations developed for past “Exploring Your Jersey Roots” lecture series. Upcoming presentations include:

12/8/07	“Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestor at the New Jersey State Archives” to be presented by Catherine Stearns Medich at the Captain Joshua Huddy chapter of the DAR, Toms River, NJ
12/26/07	“Tracing Your Revolutionary War Ancestor” to be presented by Bette Marie Epstein as a part of Patriot’s Week, at the New Jersey State Archives Manuscript Reading Room, Trenton, NJ, 4:15 pm-5:15 pm. Free of charge, but seating is limited to 25 persons. To reserve a space, please call (609) 633-8334.
12/27/07	“www.njarchives.org: Exploring the New Jersey State Archives from Home” to be presented by Ellen R. Callahan and Veronica L. Calder as a part of Patriot’s Week, at the New Jersey State Archives Manuscript Reading Room, Trenton, NJ, 1:45 pm-2:45 pm. Free of charge, but seating is limited to 25 persons. To reserve a space, please call (609) 633-8334.
1/12/08	“Genealogical Research at the New Jersey State Archives” to be presented by Catherine Stearns Medich at the Secaucus Public Library.
5/2/08 or 5/3/08	“Documenting De-Industrialization and Re-Purposing Mid-Atlantic Economies” to be co-presented by Joseph R. Klett, who will discuss canal and railroad records in New Jersey, at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference’s Spring 2007 Meeting in Chautauqua, NY. Date and time TBD.

For a list of possible lectures by State Archives staff, contact us at archives.reference@sos.state.nj.us.

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Bookstore News

BooksNJ

We regret to report that BooksNJ: The Capital Bookstore, closed shop in June 2007 due to budget and staffing constraints. For the last few years, the store was operated in management partnership with the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. We would like to publicly thank, again, the Genealogical Society for its support and cooperation in this endeavor. We also thank the store’s many consignors and its faithful customers for working with us and shopping at BooksNJ. It was a one-of-a-kind store, dedicated solely to New Jerseyana.

We also acknowledge the hard work and diligence of Publications Unit Supervisor Veronica Calder, who oversaw bookstore management on behalf of the State Archives and our partner, the New Jersey Historical Commission. Thanks also go to Beth Lawrence-Gill, Regina Fitzpatrick, John Bozard and Rich Donegan for staffing the store so professionally.

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