

New Jersey in Focus
Four Centuries of Monmouth County Women

Exhibit at the
Monmouth County Library Headquarters
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, New Jersey
October 2019

Organized by the
Monmouth County Archives
A Division of the Office of Monmouth County Clerk
Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq.

Gary D. Saretzky, Curator and Editor
Eugene Osovitz, Preparer of the Exhibit
With major contributions by
Randall Gabrielan, Mary Hussey
George Joynson, Karen L. Schnitzspahn, and Melissa Ziobro

**Produced by the
Monmouth County Archives
A Division of the Office of Monmouth County Clerk
Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq.
125 Symmes Drive
Manalapan, NJ 07726**

First Edition

After its October 2019 viewing in the Monmouth County Library's gallery and lobby, a portion of this exhibit will be on display in or near the Archives hallway on the lower level of the Library until Summer 2020.

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Julia Ashbey – Judge	9
Anna Mahala Field Atchison – Educator.....	11
Anne Willing Bingham – Society Leader	13
Olga Boeckel – Mayor and Newspaper Librarian	15
Jenny Rosenthal Bramley – Scientist.....	17
Countess Roberta Buxhoeveden – Philanthropist.....	19
Doris Porter Caesar – Sculptor.....	21
Jane G. Clayton – County Clerk	23
Judith Stanley Coleman – Environmental Activist and Philanthropist.....	25
Sarah Jane Corson Downs – Social Reform Activist.....	27
Saint Katharine Drexel – Religious Order Founder.....	29
Achsah Cannon Dunham – Social Reform Activist.....	31
Gertrude Ederle – Long Distance Swimmer	33
Emily M. Frisby – Climatologist.....	35
Audrey Gomez – Athlete.....	37
Annie Hart – Vaudeville Entertainer.....	39
Margaret Haskell – Americana Collector and Philanthropist.....	41
Delores “Dee” Holland – Jazz Pianist.....	43
Delores “Dee” Holmes – Gospel and Popular Vocalist.....	45
Dicksie Hoyt – Water Skiing Champion.....	47
Esther Hymer – Humanitarian.....	49
Florence Bell Ilch – Collie Breeder.....	51
Sarah Patterson Johnson – Lighthouse Keeper.....	53
Harriet M. Lafetra – Social Reform Activist.....	55
Madam Marie (Castello) – Psychic and Advisor.....	57
June Methot – Sailing Champion.....	59
Maggie Mitchell – Actor.....	61
Molly Pitcher – Revolutionary War Icon.....	63
Alice Neel – Painter.....	65
Katharine Neuberger – Public Servant.....	67
Lillian Nordica – Opera Singer.....	69
Dorothy Parker – Writer	71
Catherine A. “Kate” Patterson – Elocutionist.....	73
Helen C. Phillips – Educator and Historian.....	75
Dorothy Toland Pons – Dancer and Dance Studio Owner.....	77
Priscilla Ransohoff – Educational Psychologist and Equal Opportunity Advocate.....	79
Caroline Gallup Reed – Educator and Founder, Monmouth County Historical Association.....	81
Ahna Loehr Tesche Parker Reimers – Pianist.....	83

Restelle Richardson Revey – Sand Hill Indian Activist.....	85
Louise Rosskam – Documentary Photographer.....	87
Seabrook Women – Community Activists.....	89
Bernarda Bryson Shahn – Artist and Writer.....	91
Penelope Stout – Pioneer Matriarch.....	93
Mary Lou Strong – Historic Preservation Advocate.....	95
Mary Wooster Sutton – Attorney and Pianist.....	97
Geraldine Thompson – Philanthropist.....	99
Ella Prentiss Upham – Physician.....	101
Jessie Vanderveer – Attorney and Musician.....	103
Emma K. Vernell – Firefighter.....	105
Hannah Weis – Clothing Business Owner.....	107
Albionia Whartenby and Blanche Roebling – Philanthropists.....	109
Katharine Elkus White – Ambassador and Mayor.....	111
Margaret Widdemer – Poet and Novelist	113
Women Lifeguards of Monmouth County.....	115
Acknowledgments.....	116
Caption Writers.....	118

Introduction

This exhibit was conceived to commemorate the approaching centennial of the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution. On June 14, 1919, as a result of a vigorous campaign over many years by dedicated women and their male allies, the Senate passed the amendment giving women the right to vote and it was sent to the states for ratification. On August 18, 1920, after several states rejected it, Tennessee voted in favor, thereby meeting the ratification requirement of three-quarters of the states, and the amendment passed. Although some states had permitted women to vote by that time, women first voted nationwide in November 1920.

Since the adoption of the 19th Amendment, women have steadily become more involved in politics and other endeavors previously associated with men. But even before that milestone, women in Monmouth County became notable for achievements beyond traditional domestic responsibilities. Some played active roles in seeking social equality, especially after the women's movement accelerated following the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848, the first conference devoted exclusively to women's rights in the United States.

The Monmouth County Archives began considering an exhibit about women before January 2018, when it acquired a copy of *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women* by the Women's History Project of New Jersey (1990). We already had Karen L. Schnitzspahn's excellent *Stars of the New Jersey Shore* (2007) and *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore* (2015), and the Elsalyn Palmisano Women's History Papers, among the sources that would be cited in this catalog. Although we seriously considered other worthwhile exhibit subjects, the women's theme was discussed extensively in October by Archives staff and County Historian Randall Gabrielan, and approved soon thereafter by County Clerk Christine Hanlon. With the addition of Professor Melissa Ziobro of Monmouth University and independent historian Schnitzspahn, this team recommended more than one hundred women to include in the exhibit. With the exception of Schnitzspahn, a former county resident who now lives in Colorado, the group met to reduce the list to fit the exhibit space available and make assignments for caption writing.

The first task in developing the exhibit was to establish criteria for inclusion, as there were far too many candidates. The first criterion was to limit the exhibit to women who were deceased, although exceptions were made for two, who for many years have not been active in the field for which they were chosen. Second, the women had to have lived in Monmouth County, at least regularly in the summers—not just visited briefly—and preferably made their mark while a resident. Third, the exhibit needed to be balanced geographically, with women associated with different parts of Monmouth County but it was not possible for each town to be represented. Fourth, the exhibit had to include diversity; African American, Hispanic American, and Native American women are featured, as well as those with different religions. Fifth, there had to be enough reliable information and exhibit-quality material for inclusion. Finally, while the exhibit sought to cover women in different centuries, given the other criteria, it should not be surprising that late 19th and 20th century women predominate.

Based on these criteria, the team selected just over 50 exhibit items, all about individual women except for three that feature more than one. Some of the women, such as pioneer Penelope Stout and Molly Pitcher, have become legendary, while others were far more familiar to their contemporaries. A number of the women were selected in part because they were path-breaking for their gender. These include: the first female judge in Monmouth County, Julia Ashbey; County Clerk Jane Clayton, also the first woman to be elected a County Freeholder; Gertrude Ederle, the first woman to swim the English Channel; Assistant Lighthouse Keeper Sarah Patterson Johnson; the first female attorneys in Monmouth, Mary Wooster Sutton and Jessie Vanderveer; Asbury Park's first female physician, Dr. Ella Prentiss Upham; and Emma K. Vernell, the first woman volunteer fire fighter in Monmouth.

Other women in the exhibit, too many to enumerate here, are notable for particularly successful careers in a very wide range of fields, such as art and photography, business, charitable work, education, entertainment, historic preservation, literature, public service, social reform activism, philanthropy, politics, religion, science, and sports. A variety of careers are represented by women in the exhibit and they came from a range of social classes, with some at the highest echelons of society, including but not limited to Anne Welling Bingham, Countess Buxhoeveden, and Judith Stanley Coleman. In addition to their featured accomplishments, most of these women also had families and balanced home life with their outside activities.

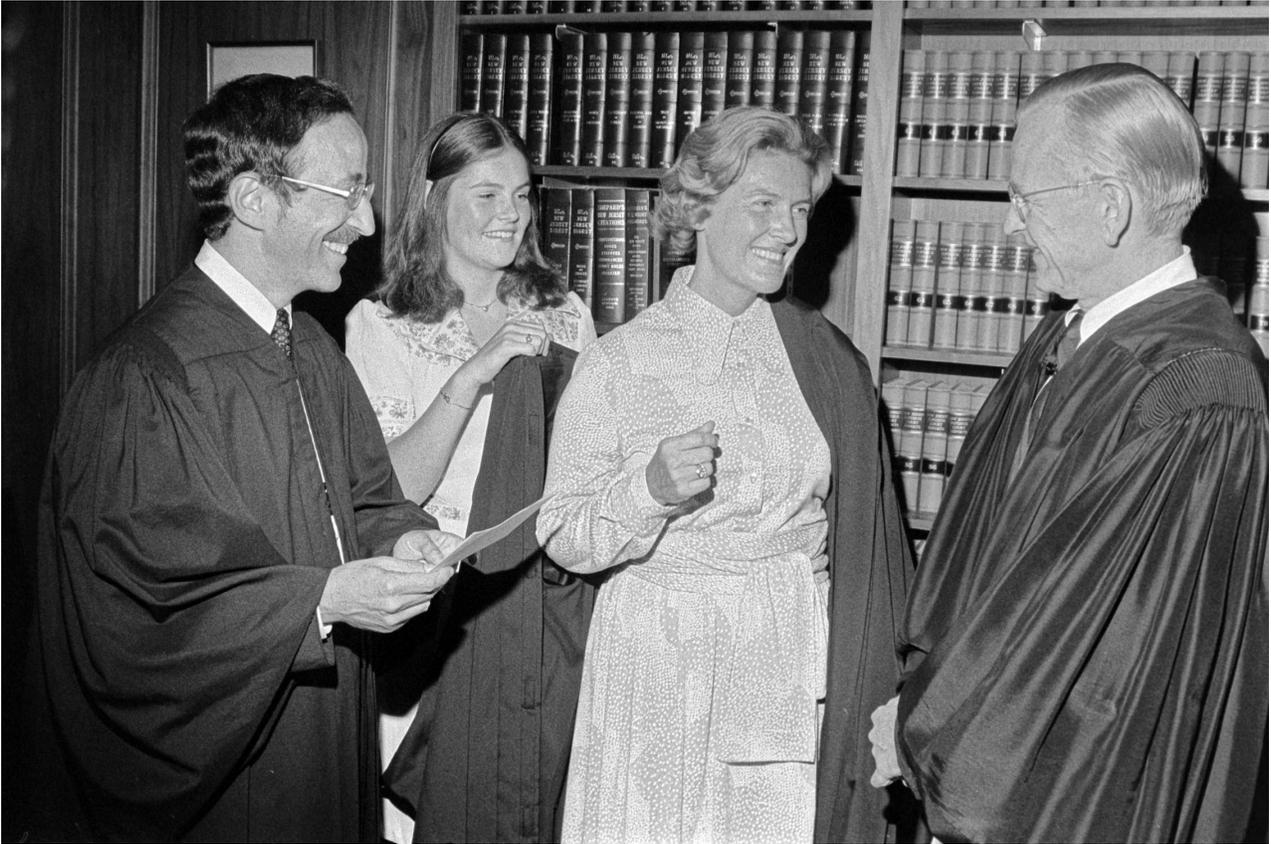
For some of the selected women, substantial information was readily available, including book-length biographies of activist Sarah Downs, Saint Katharine Drexel, artists Doris Caesar and Molly Pitcher, Alice Neel, opera star Lillian Nordica, writer Dorothy Parker, photographer Louise Roskam, and Penelope Stout. For such luminaries, the caption writers were challenged to condense a lifetime of achievement into a few words and it is hoped that readers of this catalog will explore the bibliographic citations below the captions. For other women, caption writers did considerable research to find biographical details about largely forgotten women, such as Kate "Te-Wan-Ka" Patterson, a black elocutionist whose profession now may be as unfamiliar as her name.

Today, as an increasing proportion of women are building significant careers, this exhibit serves as a reminder of those that led the way. Collectively, the women in this exhibit represent many others who have made a major positive impact on the quality of life in Monmouth County.

Gary D. Saretzky

Monmouth County Archivist

New Jersey in Focus
Four Centuries of Monmouth County Women



Above, Julia Ashbey, accompanied by her daughter, being sworn in as Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Judge, June 15, 1976. Photo by Paul DeNucci, 1976-06-14, Monmouth County Archives. Below, a recent photo, courtesy Julia Ashbey.



Julia Lovett Ashbey: First Woman Judge in Monmouth County

Julia Lovett, born in 1931 at Middletown to Vanderveer and Christina Lovett, was drawn to the law by “personal fascination” when few women sought legal careers. Admitted in New York in 1956, after graduating from Columbia Law School, Julia (Ashbey after marriage to William, a bank executive), secured employment with a prestigious firm, now Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton and Garrison. Work in their Trusts and Estates department did not fill her need to serve children’s issues. Her next position with the Citizens’ Committee for Children of New York, in which she found greater satisfaction through drafting legislation and other work protecting children’s rights, established her career path.

Admitted in New Jersey in 1966, Ashbey served as Assistant Monmouth County Counsel which brought her into the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court two days weekly. After nine years, she was nominated to that court in 1976 by Governor Brendan Byrne. She is seen here being sworn in after Senate confirmation. Ashbey thus became the first woman judge in Monmouth County, breaking the long tradition of male-only benches. Experience with children’s matters notwithstanding, Ashbey’s first four years were on the matrimonial bench.

Two judicial elevations followed, including appointment to the Superior Court in 1976 and later to the Appellate Division. In 1985, Ashbey was presiding judge of the Superior Court. One of her many noteworthy trials, a 1980s headline maker popularly known as the “Baby M Case,” impacted public policy on surrogate parenting. Judge Ashbey wrote the appellate decision.

Now in retirement in Oregon, Ashbey has three daughters who chose different careers. RG

Ashbey, Julia, telephone interview by Randall Gabrielan, April 1, 2019.

“Judgeship Candidate Talks about Respect for the Law.” *Red Bank Register*, May 7, 1976, 5.

Schwartz, Meagan. “Their Office Is a Courtroom.” *Barnard Quarterly*, Winter 1985.

“Senate Confirms Ashbey Judgeship.” *Red Bank Register*, June 4, 1976, 3.



Above, on June 6, 1973, Mahala Atchison holds the bell she used to call children to classes at the one-room Pine Brook School in 1927. Photo by Don Lordi, 1973-06-008RBR, Monmouth County Archives. Below, approaching retirement on May 23, 1973, Atchison at first grade class at Sycamore School, New Shrewsbury, with students, Kenny McKinney, left, and Roy Roberson, center. Photo, May 23, 1973, by Larry Perna, 1973-05-031RBR, Monmouth County Archives.



Anna Mahala Field Atchison: Educator and Church Official

Anna Mahala Field Atchison shaped the lives of countless Monmouth County children as a public school teacher for 46 years. She was born in Somerville, New Jersey, on September 25, 1904, and attended local schools through her graduation from Somerville High School in 1923. She obtained a degree in 1925 from Cheyney State Normal School in Pennsylvania and later earned degrees from New York University, Rutgers, and Trenton State College.

Atchison began her teaching career in 1925 in Maryland, quickly rising to school principal. She returned to New Jersey in 1927, to work at schools in Shrewsbury Township and Tinton Falls. She taught grades 1-8 at the one-room, segregated Pine Brook School; in the photo, she holds the school bell. Subsequently, she taught at the Vail Homes School, Tinton Falls School, and Sycamore Avenue School. Interviewed upon retirement in 1973, she averred that all children should be instilled with a positive self-image and respect for other people. The Sycamore School at 961 Sycamore Avenue in Tinton Falls was christened the “Mahala F. Atchison School” in her honor.

Atchison was as devoted to her church as she was to her students. She held numerous leadership roles in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church and worked tirelessly to raise funds for churches throughout Africa. The Janie Speaks A.M.E. Zion Hospital in Afrancho, Ghana, named a pediatric ward after her in 1983.

Atchison married Reverend Wallace William Atchison in 1950; the couple had no children. The lifelong educator lost her battle with cancer on April 19, 1985, at her home in Lincroft, aged 80. She is buried at Monmouth Memorial Park in Tinton Falls. MZ

Borak, Greg. “Mrs. Atchison to Close Out Long Teaching Career.” *Red Bank Register*, June 8, 1973, 11.

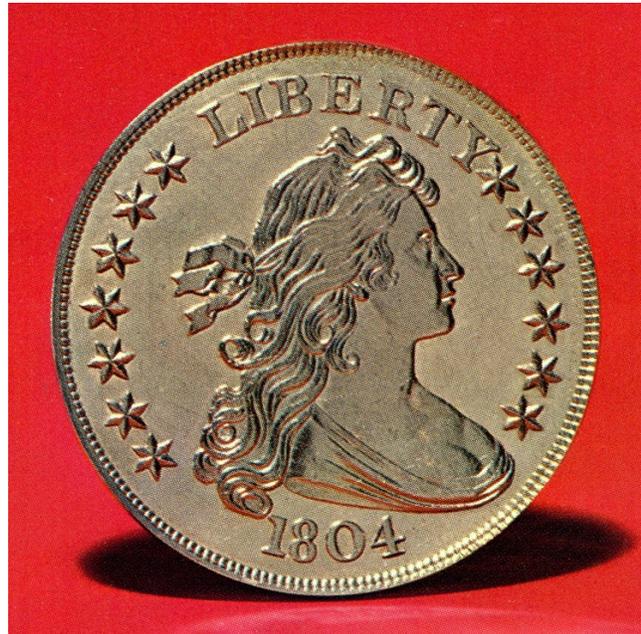
Burstyn, Joan, ed. *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1997, 229-230.

“Fine Name for School.” *Red Bank Register*, June 19, 1973, 6.

Gabrielan, Randall. *Tinton Falls in the Twentieth Century*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 1999, 75-76. “History of Tinton Falls School District.” [Tinton Falls School District](#). Web.

“Mahala F. Atchison, 80; Educator, Church official.” *Red Bank Register*, April 21, 1985, 7A.

“To Speak at Women’s Day Event.” *Red Bank Register*, March 1, 1974, 15.



Above, lithograph, from Rufus W. Griswold, *The Republican Court, or, American Society in the Days of Washington*. New and rev. ed. (New York, 1856), plate opposite 253.

Above right, U.S. "Lady Liberty" gold coin, 1804, reportedly modeled on Anne Willing Bingham.

Right, Anne Willing Bingham, oil painting by Gilbert Stuart, 1797, Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Opposite, Bingham Hill residence, Rumson, early 1900s, photograph, courtesy Randall Gabrielan.



Anne Willing Bingham: A Woman Molded for the Nobility

Born in 1764, Anne Willing was the eldest of the thirteen children of the prosperous merchant Thomas and Anne McCall Willing. She was both well-educated and esteemed as a great beauty, enabling her to become one of the most celebrated and courted young women in the fledgling republic. At age sixteen, she married one of the country's wealthiest men, the twenty-eight-year-old William Bingham. The politically influential pair became social and public leaders in both their native Philadelphia and Rumson, where they established the region's first country home. Anne, whose painted portrait by Gilbert Stuart is at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, is believed to have been the model for America's most celebrated and valuable gold coin, the so-called "draped bust" dollar.

Traveling between 1783 and 1786, the Binghams attended numerous European salons, helping prepare Anne for a life style appropriate for her high social stratum. The couple built a vast residence, the no-longer extant "Mansion House," at Third and Market in Philadelphia. Learned in political and public affairs and holding her own as an informed conversationalist, Anne attracted the approval of John and Abigail Adams.

In 1791, William Bingham bought a house with about 200 acres of farmland in Rumson from Joseph Wardell. His expanded residence, "Bingham Hill," became the finest in the region and still stands at 142 Bingham Avenue. Some of the Binghams' extended sojourns there were to escape yellow fever epidemics in Philadelphia.

Anne suffered a serious illness, likely tuberculosis, after giving birth, and sailed for Madeira with her husband, daughter and sister, seeking a salubrious climate. On May 11, 1801, she died en route in Bermuda, where she is buried. RG

Baltzell, E. Digby. *Puritan Boston and Quaker Philadelphia*, New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 1996 (revised edition).

Gabrielan, Randall. *Rumson – Shaping a Superlative Suburb*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

Wilson, Janet, et al., eds. *Notable American Women, 1607-1950, A Biographical Dictionary*. [Cambridge, Massachusetts]: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1971.

Women of the Republican Court – Anne Willing Bingham (1764-1801). [Web](#).





Above, accompanied by her husband Ray, Olga Boeckel sworn in as mayor of Middletown by County Clerk Jane Clayton, January 1, 1986. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection. 1986-01-002aRBR. Below, in July 2008, Boeckel visits Larry Cella, who had become County Records Manager, at the Monmouth County Archives. Photo by Gary D. Saretzky, 2008-07-54.

Opposite, Boeckel in 1983. 1983-03-082aRBR. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection. All photos, Monmouth County Archives.



Olga Boeckel: *Red Bank Register* Librarian and Mayor of Middletown

For saving records of Monmouth County history, Olga Boeckel is considered a heroine at the Monmouth County Archives. Queens-native Olga Koman attended Jamaica High School, then worked in the travel field. After marrying WWII veteran Raymond G. Boeckel, a custom home builder, she moved to Middletown, where the Boeckels operated Sleepy Hollow Horse Farm for 43 years.

While a secretary at the *Red Bank Register*, Boeckel studied librarianship at Columbia University. As the newspaper's librarian for 15 years, she supervised the clipping and photo morgues. A 1970 Christmas Eve fire destroyed the library. Starting anew, Boeckel and her successors filed more than 200,000 clippings by subject and at least 33,000 envelopes of photographic film, by 1988.

After retiring from the *Register* in 1983, Boeckel, a Republican, was elected to the Middletown Township Committee (1985-1987). On January 1, 1986, four months before he died, Ray held the bible as she became the town's first woman mayor, sworn in by County Clerk Jane Clayton (seen here). During her one-year mayoral term, Boeckel and Municipal Clerk Larry Cella signed ordinances for road and parks improvements; salary increases for police; purchase of firefighting and other equipment; and creation of the Municipal Housing Advisory Council.

In 1988, Boeckel went to the *Register* and rescued a vast quantity of clippings and film slated for destruction, dividing them among the Monmouth County Library and Middletown and Shrewsbury historical societies. Eventually, these institutions and George H. Moss, Jr., who had acquired some negatives from Shrewsbury, donated the materials to the County Archives. Boeckel died September 13, 2012. She was 91. GDS



Middletown Township Committee, Ordinance Books, 1986. Municipal Records Group, Monmouth County Archives.

“Olga K. Boeckel.” [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, September 18, 2012, A8.

“Raymond G. Boeckel.” [Obituary], *Red Bank Register*, May 7, 1986, 8A.

[Red Bank Register: Clippings, 1971-1988.](#)
Guide, Monmouth County Archives.

[Red Bank Register: Negatives, 1971-1987.](#)
Guide, Monmouth County Archives.



Left, Jenny Bramley graduating. Above, Bramley with equipment, circa 1980. Below, Bramley with her parents, about 1914, probably in Moscow.

Opposite, Bramley with a medal she received in 1984. All photos, courtesy Nora Poling.



Dr. Jenny Rosenthal Bramley: Scientist

In 1985, the Interagency Committee on Women in Science and Engineering called Dr. Bramley the “most outstanding woman scientist in the federal government.” Jenny Rosenthal was born July 31, 1909, in Moscow to Dr. Lazar and Elizabeth Rosenthal from Lithuania. She received her B.S. from the University of Paris (1926) and her Master’s and Ph.D. from New York University (1927 and 1929, respectively). At age 19, she was the first woman at NYU to get a Ph.D. in physics.

Jenny worked at several universities before employment as a physicist with the U.S. Army Signal Corps Laboratories, Fort Monmouth (1942-1944, 1948-1950). There, she met, and in 1943 married, colleague Arthur Bramley, with whom she would start a family. She continued to work as a consultant with Fort Monmouth (1950-53) and taught at Monmouth Junior College (now, University). Careers in private industry, other government laboratories, and college campuses nationwide followed. Biographers attribute her winding career path, at least in part, to her desire to balance work and family. Bramley would champion other women in science through work with the American Association of University Women and other organizations.

Bramley held over a dozen patents, including for work on color television tubes and early computer terminals. With Gregory Breit, she was the first to calculate the effect of extended nuclear charge on the hyperfine structure and isotopic shift – a still well-known effect called the “Breit-Rosenthal correction.” A prolific author, Bramley’s many honors included being one of the first women named a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical & Electronics Engineers. In 1997, NYU named a laser laboratory, still in use today, after her. Bramley died May 26, 1997, at the age of 87. MZ

Dim, Joan Marans and Nancy Murphy Cricco. *The Miracle on Washington Square: New York University*. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2001, 94.

Dr. Jenny Rosenthal Bramley biography file, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Historical Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

Gabriele Kass-Simon, ed. *Women of Science: Righting the Record*. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1990, 180.

Howes, Ruth H. and Caroline L. Herzenberg. *After the War: Women in Physics in the U.S.* San Rafael, California: Morgan and Claypool Publishers, 2015.

“Jenny Rosenthal Bramley.” [Contributions of 20th Century Women to Physics](#). CWP at UCLA. Web.



Right, in January 1977, Countess Buxhoeveden at desk, for a *Red Bank Register* magazine cover promoting the Winter Glow Ball, 1977-01-104RBR.

Below, in August 1975, the Countess presides at the tea table in her home, where she hosted the season's inaugural meeting for the Winter Glow Ball. She is serving Mrs. Edward Aborn, Fair Haven, one of the committee chairmen. On the left is John J. Donoghue, executive director of the Monmouth County Unit New Jersey Association for Retarded Children, the organization which will benefit from the Dec. 6 event, and handing him a cup is Mrs. I. Ralph Fox, Rumson, who was decorations chairman for the ball. 1975-08-143RBR. Both photos, Monmouth County Archives.

Opposite, an early 1900s postcard of the Buxhoeveden home in Rumson, when it was owned previously by Fritz Achelis. It was remodeled after him and before the Buxhoevedens owned it.



Countess Roberta Buxhoeveden: Champion for Children with Disabilities

Countess Buxhoeveden (1903-2002) is best known for her indefatigable efforts in support of the Monmouth Association for Retarded Children, now The Arc of Monmouth. Born Roberta Montague Rose in Lodz, Poland, in 1903, Roberta was the daughter of English banker Archibald Adolph Rose and Francis Lake Montague. Raised in England, she worked with her first husband, newspaper publisher Thomas P. Leaman Jr. in southern France. They moved to Spain where she had two children, Gerald, who died very young of pneumonia, and Anabel, born with Down Syndrome. After Leaman's death at their California home, she married a Russian Count, Anatole Buxhoeveden (1905-1982), whose family received its title from Peter the Great. In 1955, she joined him at his Rumson estate, Riverfields, built by Fritz Achelis in 1888.

In 1967, the Countess (known as "Bobby") attended a local chapter meeting of the New Jersey Association for Retarded Children. She suggested organizing a masked ball as a fund raiser. For more than a decade, she chaired the Winter Glow Ball, which soon raised more than \$100,000 per year. The funding significantly expanded Association services and the Board of Chosen Freeholders provided 31 acres in Tinton Falls for a much larger headquarters. By 1978, The Arc was serving more than 2,000 families annually, ten times 1967's number. The Countess also actively raised funds for the Girl Scouts and the Children's Psychiatric Center, which evolved into CPC Behavioral HealthCare in Red Bank. At Riverfields, where she had a pet Capuchin monkey named "Bimbo," the couple entertained illustrious visitors, including Thor Heyerdahl of *Kon Tiki* fame in 1970. The Countess died at her winter home in Boca Raton in 2002. GDS

"Countess Anatole Buxhoeveden." [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, November 12, 2002, 1.

Ellis, Linda. "Winter Glow Ball proceeds reach \$162,417 record high..." *Red Bank Register*, March 17, 1977, 21.

"English Evening to Aid Jersey Psychiatric Center." *New York Times*, April 6, 1969, 66.

"Frogtown Frolic Scheduled for Sept. 26 in Holmdel." *New York Times*, Sept. 9, 1970, 40.

Maitland, Leslie. "The Compassionate Countess." *New York Times*, January 11, 1976, NJ14.

"Tough Navigation." *Trenton Evening Times*, July 22, 1970, 4. [Re Thor Heyerdahl's visit.]

"Winter Glow Ball Aids Retarded Kids." *Newark Star-Ledger*, December 10, 1978, 129.





On left and below, Doris Caesar in her studio by Paul Juley, Peter Juley & Son. Smithsonian American Art Museum. Wikimedia Commons.



Doris Porter Caesar: Expressionist Sculptor

After Doris Porter, born November 11, 1892, in Brooklyn, lost her mother at an early age, her lawyer father, Alfred Hayes Porter, encouraged her art education, which included immersion in modernist trends at the Art Students League and graduation from Syracuse University. Her career slowed when she married Harry I. Caesar in 1913 and took on family obligations.

The Spur (1931) pointed out that “it was as a result of nervous exhaustion that (she) first tried her hand at sculpture...after her groping search for the right means of self-expression had touched more or less briefly on music, drawing and painting.” Studying under the noted Cubist Alexander Archipenko, Caesar worked intensively for three years in studios at New York and in the garage at their Rumson summer home, “Holly Farm,” prior to exhibiting.

Caesar’s oeuvre included religious art and sculptured portraits of prominent women, including Rumson neighbors. Over time, she specialized in the female nude, figures typically portrayed in a naturalistic manner, although not in measured proportion. French sculptor Charles Despiau was an influence, while her work stylistically resembled the German Expressionist William Lembruck, notably by the elongated shape of her figures, which some also likened to El Greco. Much of her work was cast in bronze; some later pieces were larger than life-size. She regularly exhibited in New York.

Caesar moved to Litchfield, Connecticut, and died there in 1971. Her papers, including two scrapbooks, are at Syracuse University. The historic residence at “Holly Farms,” known as the Tredwell House, was lost to an incendiary fire in 2006. RG

“American Sculptor Doris Caesar, 78.” *Washington Post Times Herald*, September 10, 1971, C6.

“Art Broad View of ...Portraits in Sculpture.” *New York Times*, December 1, 1931, 22.

“Bronzes by Doris Caesar.” *Christian Science Monitor*, November 5, 1956, 7.

Bush, Martin H. *Doris Caesar*. Syracuse, New York: Syracuse University Press, 1970.

“Laurel Wreaths and Marching Ranks....” *New York Times*, April 23, 1933, X8.

“Of Whom Do You Hear,” *The Spur* 48, no. 2 (July 15, 1931), 26.

Rubinstein, Charlotte Streifer. *American Women Artists – from Early Indian Times to the Present*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1982, 260.

“Works of Rumson Sculptoress Now Being Exhibited.” *Red Bank Register*, March 9, 1939, 9.



Above, Jane Clayton being sworn in as County Clerk on January 3, 1980, with husband Harry and Judge John P. Arnone, by Dave Kingdon for the *Red Bank Register*, 1980-01-025RBR. Below, Jane Clayton and Judge Louis R. Aikens at naturalization of two children, June 2, 1980, 1980-06-004, by Paul DeNucci. Opposite, Jane Clayton at Elections during Kean-Florio gubernatorial vote recount on November 17, 1980, with (left to right) Margaret Crowther, clerk to the Board of Elections, Democratic commissioner Tove Brunet, and Republican commissioner Benjamin Danskin, by Don Lordi for the *Register*, 1981-11-123RBR. All photos, Monmouth County Archives.



Jane G. Clayton: Monmouth County Clerk

Respected for leadership in both business and public service, Jane Clayton created a legacy of achievement in Monmouth County history. Born Jane Gardella in 1928, Mrs. Clayton, of Rumson, became president and CEO of her father's wholesale food distribution company Eugene and Co., in Sea Bright. In 1966, she began more than 30 years in public office, when she was appointed to the County Board of Elections. In 1976, she became the first elected woman Freeholder* and then, in 1980, she became Monmouth's first female County Clerk, serving until 1997.

In addition to Recording, Elections, and Naturalizations, one of Clayton's priorities was the county's archives. Records had become damaged by water and mold in leaky storage locations. In 1980, with the help of the Monmouth County Historical Association and the New Jersey State Archives, records were fumigated, cleaned, and stored in Trenton. Clayton hired consultant James B. Rhoads, former Archivist of the United States, whose detailed report helped her convince the Freeholders to provide space for the Monmouth County Archives in plans for the new library in Manalapan. The records were moved there in 1987 and the Archives opened to the public in 1994.

As County Clerk, Clayton published two books of slave records: *Black Birth Book* and *Manumission Book*. She conducted the first annual Archives and History Day in 1996, when the Freeholders named the Archives' reading room after her, and was honored at the second in 1997, when the annual Jane G. Clayton Award for achievement in Monmouth County history was created. Predeceased by her husband, Harry H. Clayton II, she died in 2017. GDS

"Jane G. Clayton." [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, August 6, 2017, 12A.

"Jane G. Clayton, Monmouth County Clerk, Conservator and Preservationist. Saving the Past for the Future." Brochure, undated. Monmouth County Archives.

Johnson, Kelly. "County Clerk Jane Clayton Is Honored," *Red Bank Register*, October 3, 1987, 3A. [Re Joshua Huddy Award from Monmouth Council of the Boy Scouts of America.]



*The first female Freeholder, Cecile F. Norton, was appointed on April 7, 1976, to complete the unexpired term of Philip N. Gumbs, who had resigned to become a judge of the Workers Compensation Court.



Judith Stanley (right) at home in July 1975, next to her husband, Robert C. Stanley, Jr., and Dr. James C. Kirby Director, Department of Medicine, Monmouth Medical Center, and Mrs. Kirby, discussing plans for the new hospital. 1975-07-095RBR.

Opposite, in September 1984, Judith Stanley (right) hosts Republican candidates Olga Boeckel (left), running for Middletown Township Committee, and Montclair Mayor Mary Mochary, candidate for U.S. Senate, at a fundraiser attended by 100 people. 1984-09-044RBR. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection. Monmouth County Archives.

Judith Stanley Coleman (1935-2010): Model of Public Service

Born in Asbury Park, high school valedictorian Judith Hurley became a Smith College history major. She taught briefly prior to marrying Anthony Huber and raising four daughters. Her second marriage to philanthropist and nickel mining heir Robert C. Stanley, Jr. brought affluence and she continued his charitable work following his death in 1985. Mrs. Stanley became one of the foremost conservationists of her era and a model of public service.

Judith Stanley began political and charitable activism in the early 1970s. Her longest and most influential position was leadership of the Middletown Planning Board. A founder and long-term president of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Stanley, an ardent advocate of responsible growth and open space preservation, received its Verdant Award in 1992, one of numerous honors.

Her most visible appointment was her five-year chairmanship of the New Jersey Highway Authority during the 1980s, when it improved the roads and service areas of the Garden State Parkway. Stanley was devoted to health and education, notably the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey (formerly MCOSS); she served as board member for nearly fifty years, most as president. She also was a long-time trustee of Monmouth Medical Center and its Foundation; a 1975 photo shows her at home with husband Robert and Dr. and Mrs. James C. Kirby at the kick-off fundraising event for the new hospital. Stanley served on the boards of the Monmouth County Historical Association, including a long tenure as president, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Monmouth University, Stevens Institute of Technology, the Count Basie Theatre, and Rumson Country Day School.

Stanley fulfilled her class selection as “most likely to succeed.” She and third husband James M. Coleman entered the Asbury Park High School Hall of Fame in 2004. RG

Chambers, Steve. “Judith Stanley: I stand for certain goals and values.” *Asbury Park Press*, January 10, 1988, G1.

Gabrielan, Randall. *Birth of the Jersey Shore – The Personalities and Politics that Built America’s Resort*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.

Hall, Kathy. “Saving the planet begins close to home.” *The Hub*, April 20, 2006.

“Judith Hurley Stanley Coleman [obituary].” *The Two River Times*, August 6, 2010.





Above, the home of Sarah Downs at 106 Mount Tabor Way, Ocean Grove, in 2019 by Gary D. Saretzky. Below, Downs' 1882 deed for the property, Deed Book 351, page 376, Monmouth County Archives. Opposite, portrait of Downs, courtesy Karen L. Schnitzspahn.

Rhoda Field
 To
 Sarah J. C. Downs

Know all Men by These Presents that I, Rhoda Field widow of the Town of Ocean Grove in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey in consideration of Four Hundred and Ninety (490) Dollars lawful money of the United States to me duly paid by Sarah J. C. Downs of the Town of Ocean Grove in the County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey the receipt whereof is duly acknowledged have sold assigned transferred and let over and by these presents do sell assign transfer and let over unto Sarah J. C. Downs her executor administrators and assigns a certain Indenture of Lease bearing date the First day of October in the year Eighteen Hundred and Seventy three (1873) made by the Ocean Grove Camp Meeting Association of the Methodist Episcopal Church of all that certain plot piece or parcel of ground known and designated as Lot (numbered Ten (10)) on the back side of Tabor Way on the Map of Lots of Camp Ground of the said Camp

Sarah Jane Corson Downs: Temperance Leader

Audiences listened with rapt attention when Sarah Downs, a social reformer with a booming voice and daunting appearance, condemned alcohol as “the enemy.” In 1881, Downs became president of the New Jersey Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (NJWCTU). Despite her tough demeanor, “Mother Downs” was kind and loving.

Sarah was born in 1822 to an old Philadelphia family, members of the Dutch Reformed Church. When she was five, her father died and, in the 1830s, her widowed mother moved the family to New Jersey, initially in Pennington. Sarah experienced “a conversion” at seventeen and became an Evangelical Methodist. While teaching school in New Egypt, she met a widower, Methodist circuit minister Rev. Charles S. Downs. After they married in 1850, Sarah left teaching and cared for their children. When Rev. Downs retired for health reasons, the family relocated to Tuckerton. To make ends meet, Sarah resumed teaching and wrote newspaper articles. After Rev. Downs died in 1870, she raised funds for a new church and became increasingly interested in women’s welfare.

In the mid-1870s, Downs moved to Ocean Grove, the dry Methodist seaside town that would become known for its women activists and entrepreneurs. In 1882, she purchased a house lease at 106 Mount Tabor Way for \$490. During her Ocean Grove years, Downs significantly increased the NJWCTU membership. Loyal to Frances Willard, national WCTU president, Downs supported suffrage as “a means for women to better protect their homes and children” and to help achieve the prohibition of alcohol.

After a brief illness, Downs died in 1891. She was working on WCTU affairs even during her final hours. KLS

Graw, Reverend J.B., ed. *Life of Mrs. S.J.C. Downs; or Ten Years at the Head of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union of New Jersey*. Camden, New Jersey: Gazette Printing and Publishing House, 1892.

Karnoutsos, Carmela Ascolese. *New Jersey Women, A History of their Status, Roles, and Images*. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, Department of State, 1997.

Lender, Mark Edward. “Sarah Jane Corson Downs.” *Past and Promise, Lives of New Jersey Women*. Metuchen, New Jersey: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1990.

Rhoda Field to Sarah Jane Corson Downs, Ocean Grove, April 28, 1882, Deed Book 351, page 376. Monmouth County Archives.

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.



MRS. S. J. C. DOWNS.



Above and opposite, Katharine Drexel, courtesy, Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, which she founded. Below, the main altar at St. Michael's Church in Long Branch, given in memory of banker and philanthropist Francis Drexel, the father of Katharine Drexel, photo by Randall Gabrielan.



Katharine Drexel: An American Saint

Katharine Drexel, born November 26, 1858, in Philadelphia, enjoyed the perquisites of privilege as the daughter of Francis Anthony Drexel, one of the richest bankers in America and one who believed the wealthy were obliged to aid the unfortunate. Her active social life as a debutante, both in Pennsylvania and at Long Branch, where her father and uncles had summer homes, included prospects of marriage.

Hannah Landstroth Drexel, Kate's birth mother, died when she was five weeks old. Her stepmother, Emma Bouvier, became "the key that unlocked Katharine's fervor." Emma established chapels in both homes for daily prayer and meditation; there Francis Drexel spent a half-hour after arriving home.

Emma's painful final illness in 1883 deeply impacted Katharine and she began discussing inclinations to religious life with Bishop James O'Connor. Francis's death in 1885 made the devastated Katharine an heiress with little interest in money, but great motivation to help. She traveled west, inspired to aid the American Indians. Katharine was regularly unwell, prompting caution by O'Connor about the rigors of convent life, but she persisted.

Having convinced O'Connor and family of a robust constitution, Drexel entered the Sisters of Mercy, Pittsburgh, November 7, 1889. Wealth enabled her to found the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People in 1891.

At Mother Drexel's funeral following her death on March 3, 1955, Archbishop Patrick John Ryan expressed the belief that she would eventually be a saint. She was beatified in 1988; when canonized in October 2000, Drexel became the second saint born in the United States. The family is memorialized through the donation of the depicted main altar at St. Michael's in Long Branch. RG

Biddle, Cordelia Frances. *Saint Katharine – The Life of Katharine Drexel*. Yardley, Pennsylvania: Westholme Publishing, 2014.

Duffy, Sr. Consuela Marie.

Katharine Drexel – A Biography.

Cornwell Heights, Pennsylvania: Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, 1966.

"Pope to Canonize Katharine Drexel..." *The Monitor*, February 3, 2000, 5.

Salvo, Suzanne Duque. "She Was an American Millionaire and a Saint." *Regina*, August 27, 2013. [Web](#). [Includes quote, "the key that unlocked Katharine's fervor."]

Schemo, D.J. "Pope Announces Sainthood For Champion of Minorities." *New York Times*, March 11, 2000, A9.



Right, Achsah Dunham.
Ancestry.com.

Below, 1887 New Jersey
law giving women the right
to vote at school meetings,
courtesy New Jersey State
Library.

Opposite, Dunham's house,
72 Heck Avenue, Ocean
Grove, photo by Gary D.
Saretzky, 2019.



CHAPTER CXVI.

An Act giving the right of suffrage to all persons, whether male or female, in any school meeting in any school district of the state.

I. BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey*, That every citizen of the United States of the age of twenty-one who shall have been a resident of this state for one year, and of the county in which he or she claims a vote for five months next before said meeting, shall have the right to vote at any school meeting in any school district of the state wherein they may reside; *provided*, that no person in the military, naval or marine service of the United States, by being stationed in any garrison, barrack or military or naval force or station within the state, and no pauper, idiot, insane person, or person convicted of a crime, which now excludes him or her from being a witness, unless pardoned or restored by law to the right of suffrage, shall enjoy the right to vote in any school meeting.

Approved April 8, 1887.

Who entitled to vote at school meetings.

Proviso.

Achsah Cannon Dunham: Activist

The New Jersey legislature gave women the right to vote for local school boards on April 8, 1887. On March 20, 1888, after being nominated by temperance leader Sarah Downs, Achsah Dunham was elected to the Neptune Township School Board by a margin of one vote. About two dozen out of 107 ballots were cast by women. A dissenter, James H. Bird, appealed the result but County School Superintendent Samuel Lockwood confirmed Dunham's election. The dismayed male editor of the *Asbury Park Journal* called the women "crowing hens."

Women had become eligible to hold this office by an 1873 New Jersey law but they hadn't been able to vote since 1807. The limited suffrage granted in 1887 was removed by the New Jersey Supreme Court in *Allison v. Blake* (1894), when it ruled that voting by women violated the 1844 state constitution. In *Landis v. Ashworth* (1895), the court enabled women to vote for school taxes but not officers. Full suffrage was enabled by the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, ratified August 18, 1920.

Born in 1824 in the Adirondacks, Achsah Cannon married Thomas Dunham, a cuffs and collars manufacturer in Troy. In 1882, they moved to Ocean Grove, where they lived at 72 Heck Avenue. Daughters Elizabeth and Alice became teachers. In addition to her school board service, Dunham became President of the Ocean Grove Women's Christian Temperance Union and, in 1903, the founding President of the Ocean Grove and Asbury Park Political Equity Club, an auxiliary to the National Woman's Suffrage Association. She suffered a paralytic stroke in 1907, the year Thomas died, and she followed him in 1914. GDS

"Mrs. Achsah C. Dunham." [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, December 19, 1914, 2.

Editorial re "The actions of the 'crowing hens'" *Asbury Park Journal*, March 24, 1888, 2. [Historical Society of Ocean Grove](#).

"The Election Legal." *Asbury Park Journal*, April 7, 1888, 2. [Historical Society of Ocean Grove](#).

Karnoutsos, Carmela Ascolese. *New Jersey Women: A History of Their Status, Roles, and Images*. Trenton: New Jersey Historical Commission, 1997.

McGoldrick, Neale and Margaret Crocco. *Reclaiming Lost Ground: The Struggle for Women Suffrage in New Jersey*. N.p.: McGoldrick & Crocco, 1993.

"An Objection." *Asbury Park Journal*, March 31, 1888, 2. [Historical Society of Ocean Grove](#).

"School Meeting." *Asbury Park Journal*, March 24, 1888, 2. [Historical Society of Ocean Grove](#).

"Woman Suffrage Movement; Auxiliary to National Association Formed at Ocean Grove." *New York Times*, July 22, 1903, 7.



Right, Gertrude Ederle with trainer Bill Burgess. Opposite, sheet music for song, "Trudy" about Gertrude Ederle. Both, Karen L. Schnitzspahn Collection.

Below, group photo with Ederle at ceremony honoring Dr. William A. Newell, Governor of New Jersey, 1857-1860. *Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey*, 1962 (10), 494. Courtesy, Rutgers University Special Collections and University Archives.



Participants in the ceremonies Honoring Dr. Newell



Dr. Fred B. Rogers, Archivist to our Society; Gertrude Ederle (see text); K. H. Creveling, Director of our State's Division of Resource Development; Mary Anna Duncan of Florida ("Miss Florida World"); Peter J. Guthorn, M.D., Historian of Dr. Newell's county medical society (Monmouth); and Robert Finkernagel of Cape Coral, Florida, representative of the Garden of Patriots, an organization of citizens to honor Americans who have performed outstanding acts of service and whose accomplishments have not been properly recognized.

Gertrude Ederle: Long Distance Swimmer

The first woman to swim the English Channel, Gertrude Ederle, spent her childhood summers in Highlands. Born in New York City in 1905, she was one of six children. Her father, a New York butcher, rented a bungalow in Highlands for family vacations. As the story goes, young Gertrude first learned to swim when her parents tied a rope around her waist and dangled her from a dock on the Shrewsbury River.

Competitive swimming became the focus of Gertrude's life. She won a gold and two bronze medals in the 1924 Paris Olympics. Her goal was to swim across the English Channel, a feat previously accomplished by only five men. While training, she set a record for swimming from Manhattan to Sandy Hook. (The trophy she won for that swim and various memorabilia are on display at The Twin Lights in Highlands.) After one failed attempt, Ederle made it across the treacherous English Channel on August 6, 1926, and became an icon of the Roaring Twenties. President Calvin Coolidge called her "America's best girl." New York gave her a ticker tape parade and Highlands held a big celebration. "Trudy," as she was dubbed by adoring fans, toured the country and even appeared in vaudeville. But her long distance swimming career was over. She experienced hearing problems caused by measles during childhood and, by the 1940s, was almost completely deaf.

In 2000, Ederle attended a ceremony in Highlands to dedicate a small park named for her. Three years later, she died at a nursing home in Wycoff, New Jersey, at the age of ninety-eight. KLS

"Dr. Newell: The Member Who Became Governor." *Journal of the Medical Society of New Jersey*, 1962 (10), 494. [Includes group photo with Ederle.]

King, John P. *Stories from Highlands, New Jersey: A Sea of Memories*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2012.

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press 2015.

Severo, Richard. "Gertrude Ederle, the First Woman to Swim Across the English Channel, Dies at 98." *The New York Times*. Dec. 1, 2003.

Stewart, Mark. "Gertrude Ederle, Queen of the Waves." Accessed online January 7, 2019, at <https://www.jockbio.com/Classic/Ederle/Ederle-bio.html>

Stout, Glenn. *Young Woman and the Sea: How Trudy Ederle Conquered the English Channel and Inspired the World*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009.





AD 644246

AD 644246

ECOM
 UNITED STATES ARMY ELECTRONICS COMMAND · FORT MONMOUTH, N.J.
 DISTRIBUTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS UNLIMITED

Technical Report ECOM-2768

HAIL INCIDENCE IN THE TROPICS

by

E. M. Frisby

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR FEDERAL SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION		
Hardcopy	Microfiche	
\$3.00	\$.65	14 pp. 20
/ ARCHIVE COPY		

October 1966

DDC
 RECEIVED
 JAN 3 1967

Above, portrait of Emily M. Frisby, courtesy South Dakota University Archives & Special Collections.

Left, Dr. Frisby's report on hail in the tropics, courtesy, U.S. Army CECOM Historical Office.

Opposite, "Vulcoon Flight," a poem about balloon voyages by Dr. Frisby, *Argus Leader* (Sioux Falls), May 5, 1963, 4.

Dr. Emily M. Frisby: Climatologist

“Weather can be made to work for the world, if it is interpreted properly.” (Frisby, 1954)

Climate change may seem a modern day concern but the study of weather’s impact on human-kind—and what we might do about it—is nothing new. In the mid-20th century, Dr. Emily M. Frisby made climatology her life’s work. Born in England on September 13, 1907, Frisby attended schools in Leicester and the University of Wales. During World War II, she served as a meteorological officer in the Women’s Royal Naval Service (the women’s branch of the United Kingdom’s Royal Navy). Post-war, Frisby made her way to the United States. For eleven years, she directed climatological research at a Denver research institute, then became a professor (seen here) in weather engineering at South Dakota State College before obtaining a doctorate at Reading University. She joined Raven Industries in 1960 and became a weather balloon expert. Her passion for balloons was expressed in her 1963 poem, “Vulcoon Flight.” In 1966, she joined the U.S. Army Electronics Command (ECOM) Atmospheric Sciences Laboratory at Fort Monmouth as chief of the Atmospheric Modification Task Group.

Frisby’s career was devoted to “climatology for the public benefit,” the title of one of her many conference panels. She traveled the world—Europe, the United States, Middle East and Africa—seeking answers to questions such as: Could humans find a way to stop dangerous, destructive lightning and hail? Could we seed clouds to produce rain and battle droughts? Frisby, whose research was published in academic journals and government reports, disliked the term “rain-making,” saying it smacked of magic; instead, she preferred “weather modification” to describe her work. A resident of Spring Lake Heights, Frisby died in July 1993 at the age of 85. MZ

Dr. Emily M. Frisby biography file, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Historical Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD.

“Dr. Frisby, Anthony Kurtz Label Oct. 3 Storm as Dangerously Near Full Tornado.” *The Monmouth Message* (Fort Monmouth), October 17, 1968, 11.

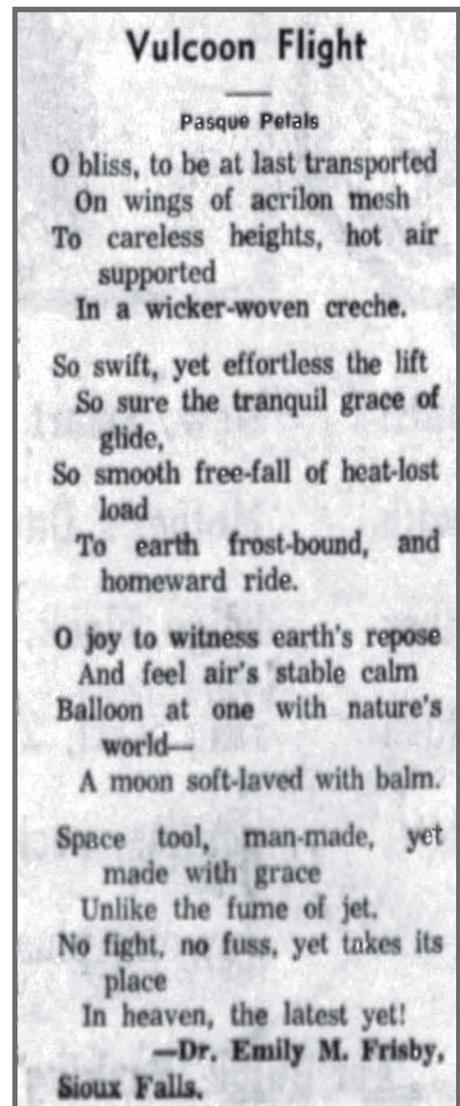
Frisby, Emily M. *Hail Incidence in the Tropics*. Technical Report ECOM-2764, October 1966.

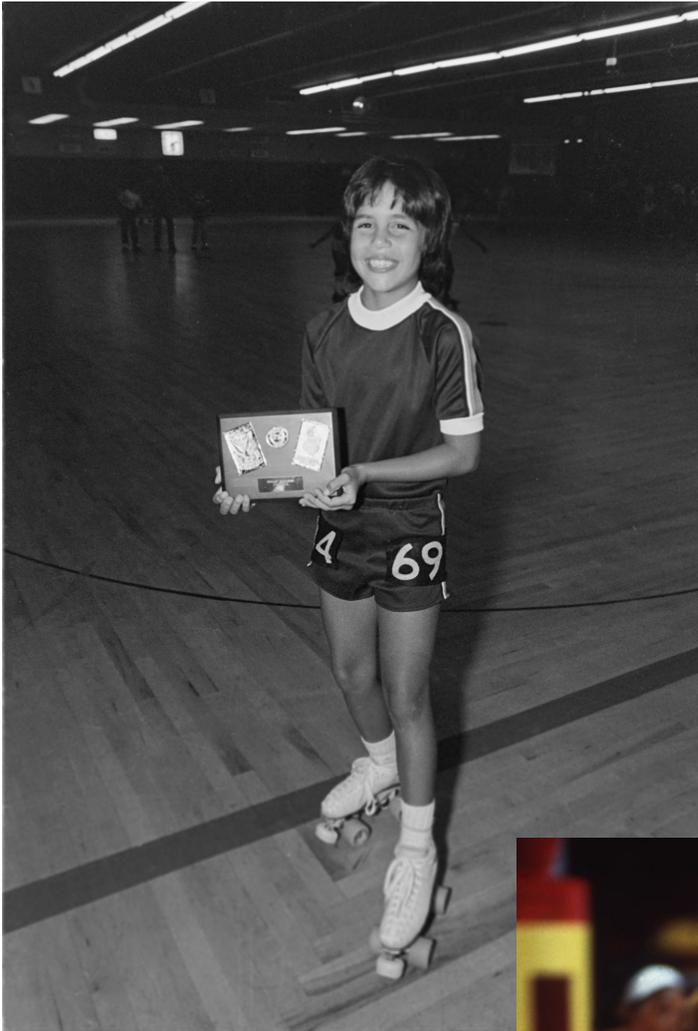
“Rocket Type Probe for Cloud Seeding Being Tested at SDSC,” *Daily Republic* (Mitchell, South Dakota), November 6, 1959, 14.

“Robeson County Commissioners Hear How ‘Rain-Making’ Works.” *The Robesonian* (Lumberton, North Carolina), October 26, 1954, 1.

“Seeding of Clouds Defended by Krick Scientist at Meet.” *Gallup Independent*, April 26, 1955, 4.

Stott, Mary. “Balloonatic.” *The Guardian* (Manchester, England), June 12, 1963, 6.





Left, Audrey Gomez as 8-year-old national speed roller skating champion, photo in August 1981 by Carl Forino for the *Red Bank Register*, 1981-08-146RBR, Monmouth County Archives.

Below and opposite, Gomez on the University of Southern California basketball team, 1990s, courtesy, University of Southern California Athletics.



Audrey Gomez, Star Athlete: Triumph to Tragedy

A gifted athlete, Keyport's Audrey Gomez first came to national attention in 1981: the roller skating 8-year-old won the primary division of the National Speed Skating championship in Texas, and commented, "It feels good to be famous." Switching from skates to hoops, Audrey and younger sister Erica honed their basketball skills at a competitive Greenwich Village playground, with transportation and instruction provided by their father Larry, a "basketball addict" born in Puerto Rico. In 1991, Audrey's high school coach Bill Bulman at St. John Vianney described her as "the most talented player...that ever played basketball in the Shore Conference. I've been around shore basketball 10-15 years and I have never seen a player comparable to [the] skills and ability she takes on the floor." Audrey led the Lancers to the New Jersey State Championship, averaging 25+ points per game. The sisters became elite college basketball guards in Los Angeles. After two semesters at Notre Dame, Audrey, 5' 8", played for USC, but her career was hampered by injuries; Erica, 5' 9", became All-American at UCLA.

In 2001, Audrey, then 28, was working for a Los Angeles residential shelter for troubled youth when she was found shot to death in the back seat of her car. Bloodhounds led authorities two miles to the home of her supervisor, Angela H. Shepard. Shepard had been fired in 1995 after six years as a Los Angeles police officer, for threatening to kill a female colleague. After pleading guilty to murdering Gomez, Shepard was sentenced to 15 years to life. GDS

Monmouth County Archives; USC Athletics

"Gomez, Johnson, Coleman Lead Hoop All-Stars." *Red Bank Register*, March 20, 1991, 42.

Gorman, Anna. "Former Officer Sentenced in Killing of Ex-Sports Star." *Los Angeles Times*, December 7, 2001, B5.

Gorman, Anna. "LAPD Fired Suspect After '95 Threats." *Los Angeles Times*, August 31, 2001, B1.

Guteskey, Earl. "Sister, Sister: Though the Gomezes Play for UCLA and USC, Nothing Comes Between These Rival Siblings." *Los Angeles Times*, January 27, 1996, C10.

Karmin, Alan. "Cagers Wind Down Careers." *Red Bank Register*, February 20, 1991, 44.

"Keyport's Gomez: A Belle on Wheels." *Red Bank Register*, August 30, 1981, C4.

Ramos, George. "Arrest Made in Slaying of Onetime USC Athlete." *Los Angeles Times*, August 29, 2001, B6.





Left and below, photographs of Annie Hart,
New York Public Library.

Opposite, "Annie Hart (The Bowery Girl),"
New York Clipper, August 4, 1894, 340, cour-
tesy Randall Gabrielan.



Annie Hart: The Fair Haven Vaudeville Queen

The long stage career of Annie Hart spanned the earliest vaudeville and modern entertainment eras. A soubrette, comedienne, serio-comic actress and chansonette, Hart was among the first vaudevillians to summer or settle in Fair Haven. These performers shaped and gave character to the emerging town. Hart stayed, owning a number of houses over time.

Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, c.1859, Hart worked in a mill as a child. She made her New York debut in 1873 at Williamsburg, then played in Philadelphia in 1876 prior to a countrywide tour. Hart appeared in London with John L. Sullivan, then attained success on Tony Pastor's major vaudeville circuit. Hart, who sang "Bowery songs," became known as "The Bowery Girl" and "The Irish Queen." She developed a stock-standard, audience-demanded favorite, "The Hat Me Father Wore."

While a possible earlier marriage cannot be confirmed, Hart wed Albert Manasse in 1887 after he extricated himself from an earlier marriage. (As "Billy Lester," he performed as a blackface minstrel in the team, Lester and Allen.) By 1890, the couple summered in Fair Haven, a town that became a seasonal respite for vaudeville performers who endured extensive performance travel. They amused themselves and the town with entertainments and benefits that included "elections" for non-existent offices. Hart, chosen as "sheriff," long-enjoyed that appellation. After becoming "The Merry Widow," she was married by 1900 to J. Henry Stockley, also known as Harry Blocksom, and accompanied his act of Blocksom and Burns.

Hart, whose career endured into the 1930s, appeared in the original 1927 Broadway production of "Show Boat" and played in the film version. She died in 1947.
RG

"Annie Hart's Career." *Baltimore Sun*, November 20, 1932, 1:4.

"Married Very Quietly." *New York Times*, November 25, 1887, 5.

"Annie Hart Is Still Making Good." *Red Bank Register*, February 4, 1931, 6.

"Annie Hart, Vaudeville Star, Dies at 87." *Red Bank Register*, June 19, 1947, 3:6.

ANNIE HART

(The Bowery Girl) was born in Lawrence, Mass., in 1859, but her early years were passed in Boston, Mass. As a child she displayed considerable ability both as a singer and dancer, and she consequently was led to adopt a stage life. She made her first professional appearance in 1873, with Theall & Carton, at the Theatre Comique, Williamsburg, N. Y., where she played a three years' engagement, doing her specialty and appearing in the after-piece. In 1876 she opened at Fox's Theatre, Philadelphia, Pa., and then made a tour of the country, playing dates. She returned to the East in 1882, and in the same year visited Europe, the tour covering a period of seven months over the continent. She appeared at the Trocadero, London, with great success, for a short engagement, returning to America to open with the John L. Sullivan Combination for the season of 1882-83. The following year she joined the Ida Siddons Burlesque Co., and in 1885-86 she played dates. In 1886-87 she was with the Rentz-Santley Show. She became in 1887 the wife of Wm. Lester, of the firm of Lester & Allen, on Thanksgiving Day, at Buffalo, N. Y. Then she appeared with Lester & Allen's "Early Birds," season of 1887-88, and the following year with the Irwin Brothers' Show. In 1889 she re-joined the Lester & Allen Show, remaining with that organization until Mr. Lester's death. In 1893-94 she played an engagement with "The Ivy Leaf," and in the latter part of the season joined the Rogers Brothers' Show. During this Summer she has installed herself a favorite with the patrons of the New York roof gardens, and her success has been continuous. She will open with Tony Pastor's Road Show Aug. 6, for the Fall season, and will join Weber & Fields' Show for the Winter.

NEW YORK CLIP FOR AUG 4, 1894



Left, Margaret Haskell, miniature painting, Monmouth County Historical Association. Below, page from 1910 building contract for Haskell's residence in Middletown. Agreement, W. Shelton Swallow Co. & J. Amory Haskell, March 9, 1910. Building Contracts, Monmouth County Archives.

Opposite, Marlpit Hall, donated by Haskell to the Monmouth County Historical Association, postcard, courtesy Randall Gabrielan.

FIXED

FORM 19642-LL

UNIFORM CONTRACT.

FORM OF CONTRACT
ADOPTED AND RECOMMENDED FOR GENERAL USE
BY THE
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
AND THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDERS.

Copyrighted 1901 by the American Institute of Architects, Washington, D. C. & G. Sullivan, N. Y., Licensee for Exclusive Publication.

This Agreement, made the Ninth _____ day of March _____ in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten _____ by and between W. Shelton Swallow Co., City, County and State of New York, _____

_____ party of the first part (hereinafter designated the Contractor S), and J. Amory Haskell Esq. of the City, County and State of New York _____

_____ party of the second part (hereinafter designated the Owner),

Witnesseth that the Contractor S, in consideration of the agreements herein made by the Owner , agree with the said Owner as follows :

ARTICLE I. The Contractor shall and will provide all the materials and perform all the work for the erection and completion of a residence at Middletown - Swallow Hill, New Jersey according to the proposal of the party of the first part, dated March 3rd 1910, copy of which is attached to and made a part of this agreement. Item No. 6 of this estimate is accepted and the contractors agree to have the electric work performed by the Tucker Electric Equipment Co. for an additional allowance of \$250. _____

_____ as shown on the drawings and described in the specifications prepared by York & Sawyer _____ Architects, which drawings and specifications are identified by the signatures of the parties hereto, and become hereby a part of this contract.

Margaret Moore Riker Haskell: Connoisseur of Americana

Margaret Moore Riker was immersed in history from her birth in 1864. Her family was one of the earliest and most prominent in Newtown (now several towns including Elmhurst), Long Island, and their home, an 1809 landmark. In 1891, she married Jonathan Amory Haskell, who in 1907 began to assemble their 341-acre Oak Hill Farm in Middletown. Mrs. Haskell relocated the Riker residence to a hilltop there. Mr. Haskell, who became a vice-president of both DuPont and General Motors, built an enormous country house and modern dairy. A page from the 1910 building contract is on display.

Having reportedly begun collecting at age twelve, Mrs. Haskell amassed a huge quantity of antiques that filled both her Middletown home and her residence at 130 East 61st Street, New York. She rose to the pinnacle of Americana collectors. The collection, notably strong in American furniture and silver, was said to have been the largest ever formed by one person. She was a major benefactor of the Monmouth County Historical Association (MCHA), through her donation of some of their most iconic items. Gifts were also made to the Metropolitan, Brooklyn, and other museums.

The conveyance to MCHA of a restored and furnished Marlpit Hall, the ancient Taylor family residence in Middletown village, was arguably her most visible and significant donation. Haskell was guided in this mission by a prominent dealer, Edna Netter, probably an equal in the fulfillment of the project.

After Margaret Haskell's death on September 17, 1942, much of her collection was sold at a six-part auction in 1944-1945. Many pieces entered museum collections; their provenance from Haskell remains esteemed as a mark of quality. RG

Agreement, W. Shelton Swallow Co. & J. Amory Haskell, March 9, 1910. Building Contracts, Monmouth County Archives.

Gabrielan, Randall. "J. Amory and Margaret Riker Haskell and Oak Hill Farm" in *Middletown, Monmouth County*. Atglen, Pennsylvania: Schiffer Publishers, 2008, 86-87.

Hammond, Joseph. "The First Restoration of Marlpit Hall, Extracts from the Papers of Edna M. Netter," 1996.

Monmouth County Historical Association, Museum Collection – [Introduction](#).

"Mrs. Haskell, 78, Collector of Antiques, Dies." *New York Herald-Tribune*, September 19, 1942.

"Old Mansion to Be Moved." *Red Bank Register*, March 16, 1910, 10.



Right, Dee Holland with Al Griffin, saxophone and Clarence Pinkney, drums. Below, Holland with daughter and at the keyboard. Bottom, Holland in a trio, 1940s, other musicians unidentified. All photographs, courtesy Asbury Park African American Music Heritage Project.



Dee Holland: Jazz Pianist

In 1988, Delores “Dee” Holland was called one of the “finest jazz talents ever to come out of the Shore,” by Gerald Kamber, founder of the Monmouth Saxophone Quartet. Born in Neptune to a musical family in 1923, the 10th of 11 children, Dee began playing piano at the age of three. In the 1930s, her parents escorted her to clubs on Springwood Avenue in Asbury Park, where she heard music by jazz greats like Duke Ellington and impressed customers as a child prodigy. She was a member of local bands and was performing regularly long before graduation from Neptune High School.

In 1943, Holland moved to Washington, DC, to live with her older sister and work for the federal government. After World War II, she returned to Neptune and was employed by the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth, from which she retired after 41 years in 1988. Meanwhile, she continued her music career. One of her first postwar dance groups was “The Squires of Rhythm,” with Tommy McCloud, Eddy Watt, and Clifford Johnson. For the next six decades, Holland performed on keyboards, including the Hammond B3 organ, at numerous churches and nightclubs, among the latter, the Blue Note, Cuba’s, and El Lobo Negro Art Gallery (Asbury Park); Richard’s Lounge (Lakewood); Pleasant Valley Inn (Holmdel); Shanty Pub (Point Pleasant Beach); and Jason’s Is Jazz (South Belmar). As recently as 2008, she played at The Shoppes at the Arcade on Cookman Avenue, with Mayor Kevin Sanders on percussion and Asbury Park High band director Karen Lee Schwarz on saxophone. GDS

“Asbury Park Women Organize Black History Celebration.” *Asbury Park Sun*, March 8, 2018. [Web](#).

“Celebrating the Stories of Springfield Avenue.” Asbury Park African American Music Heritage Project. [Web](#).

“Delores “Dee” Holland.” Oral History Transcript, December 12, 2017. Interview of Holland and daughter Paulette Malunga by Jennifer Souder, Yvonne Clayton, and Melissa Keeling. Asbury Park African American Music Heritage Project.

Kamber, Gerald [Letter to editor]. “Jazz Neglected in Its Homeland.” *Asbury Park Press*, June 20, 1988, 21.

Keats, Robin. “Gallery Offers Art, All That Jazz.” *Asbury Park Press*, February 5, 2001, 10. [Includes photo of Holland at El Lobo Negro Art Gallery.]

Maffucci, Phyllis. “The Soul of Asbury.” *Asbury Insider*, revised February 20, 2019. [Web](#).

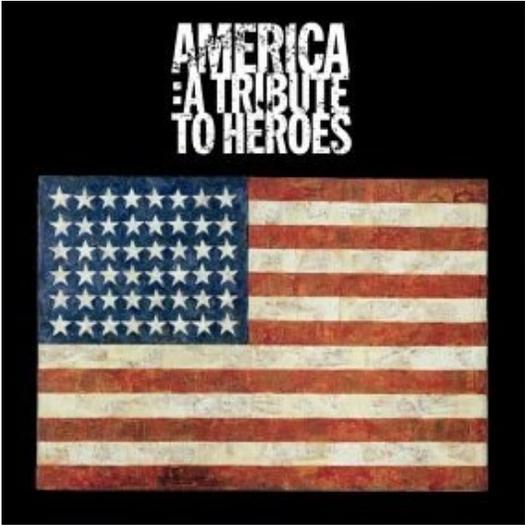
Shields, Nancy. “Asbury Music Program Sunday.” *Asbury Park Press*, April 9, 2011, 19. [Holland on panel to discuss West Side music from 1940s to 1980s.]

“Students to Exhibit Art; Band Will Play.” *Asbury Park Press*, February 29, 2008, 4.





Left, Dee Holmes, photograph by Kathy Dorn Severini. Below left, Holmes in early 1970s, photographer unidentified, courtesy Layonne Holmes. Below right, CD cover, *America: A Tribute to Heroes*, 2001.



Delores “Dee” Holmes: Jersey Shore Vocalist

Delores Holmes’ passion was music. Born in Long Branch, “Dee” (1946-2010) grew up and remained in Matawan, where she may have been the first black majorette at Matawan High School. After graduation with honors, she became a keypunch operator at Bell Labs in Holmdel. Raised in a home steeped in gospel, she began performing in church choirs and girl groups. By the early 1970s, she and Barbara Dinkins were singing backup in several rock bands, including *Hot Ice*. In 1971, responding to a newspaper ad, they were accepted into a new Bruce Springsteen group, which opened for the Allman Brothers in Asbury Park and then toured the East coast for several years.

As a vocalist and voice teacher, she became renowned in Monmouth County. According to a memorial, Holmes “performed with just about every artist who ever played the Jersey Shore,” such as Phoebe Snow, Beth Nielson Chapman, Bobby Bandiera, Garry Tallent, and Danny Federici. With her daughter Layonne Holmes and Debbie Vaughn, she sang in the soul music trio, *Rain*, and was a member of *Holiday Express*, formed in 1993 by club owner and musician Tim McLoone. Holmes sang backup on hundreds of recordings, and was featured, sometimes with Layonne, on CDs by *Holiday Express* and by *Gabrielle Roth & the Mirrors*, a sacred rock group in which she was lead vocalist.

With Springsteen days after 9-11, Holmes sang backup with Layonne, Steven Van Zandt, Bruce’s wife Patti Scialfa, and others, on his “City of Ruins,” for the Emmy award-winning telethon, *America: A Tribute to Heroes*, available on CD, DVD, and YouTube. In 2004, *Rolling Stone* called the program a moment that changed rock and roll history. Gary Gellman’s 2009 photo of Holmes and Springsteen is on exhibit here. GDS

“Delores Holmes, July 18, 1946-April 16, 2010.” Asbury Park Angels. [Web](#).

Holmes, Layonne. E-mail correspondence with Gary D. Saretzky, April 2019.

Powell, Maggie. “Dateline: 12/15/01. Holiday Express.” *Backstreets* (Winter 2001-2002), 22. Also with Bob Makin, “Dee Holmes’ 30 Year Reunion with the Boss,” 22-23.

Powell, Maggie. “In Memorium: Delores “Dee” Holmes, July 18, 1946-April 16, 2010.” *Backstreets*, April 23, 2010.

Right, Bruce Springsteen with Dee Holmes, photograph c.2001 by Gary Gellman.





Dicksie Ann Hoyt: National Water Ski Champion

Dubbed “Water Ski Queen” by the *Boston Globe*, Dicksie Ann Hoyt first astounded crowds in 1958. At age 11, the *Asbury Park Press* reported that she was “the sensation of the Shore area,” and that readers were sure to “hear a lot more of this little performer.” Sure enough, Dicksie won the 1960 New Jersey State Women’s Water Skiing Championship and the 1965 United States Women’s Water Skiing Championship.

The Hoyts lived along the Navesink River, where Dicksie learned to ski with her father driving the boat. She later moved to Miami to train year-round. “I practice trick skiing every day,” she said. Her hardest trick was “one ski, wake step over, front to back.”

Water skiing competitions are based on total points scored in three events – slalom, tricks, and jumps. Sometimes Dicksie would sweep all three, as she did in Maine, in the Bahamas, and other meets. At the 1963 National Women’s Water Skiing Championship held at Long Beach, California, Dicksie jumped 95 feet, setting the women’s world record. Later that year Dicksie, seen here in Cypress Gardens wearing the official 1963 United States Ski Team swimsuit, traveled with the team to Vichy, France, where she placed fourth in the Women’s World Water Skiing Championship.

An avid Beatles fan, Dicksie Hoyt was featured on *ABC Wide World of Sports* and *CBS Sports Spectacular*, and in *Sports Illustrated*. She also graced the cover of *American Water Ski* magazine. She retired from skiing in 1966, then married Lieutenant Andrew B. Callen. In 2000, the USA Water Ski and Wake Sports Foundation honored Dicksie with its Award of Distinction. She currently resides in Massachusetts. GJ

“The Champ is Home.” *Red Bank Register*, June 27, 1963, 28.

“National Ski Champion.” *Fort Lauderdale News*, April 18, 1964, 6.

“Practice Gains Trophies for Skier.” *Asbury Park Press*, August 9, 1962, 19.

“The Swimming Whirl.” *Asbury Park Press*, July 10, 1958, 22.

“Vacation Time is Over.” *Red Bank Register*, September 4, 1963, 20.

“Water Ski Queen.” *The Boston Globe*, August 24, 1964, 16.

Opposite, 1960s photographs of Dicksie Ann Hoyt, courtesy USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation.



Above, Esther Hymer on left with Katharine Elkus White (center) and Nancy Butler, President, AAUW-Northern Monmouth Chapter, in 1983. 1983-06-049RBR.

Below, Hymer is on the left with 1986 AAUW Esther Hymer Scholarship winner, Elaine Muldowny, and Butler, then President, Voluntary Action Center. 1986-06-005RBR. Photograph by Catherine E. Couig. Both photos, *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives.



Esther Hymer: Pioneer in the International Women's Movement

"Your untiring efforts influenced almost all the resolutions of the [UN] General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies which affect the status of women." Kofi Annan, 2008

Esther Hymer (1898-2001) became renowned worldwide for helping women. Born Esther Wanner in Chicago, her father Andrew manufactured printing presses and her mother Elizabeth, an arts patron, was active in social welfare through the Methodist church. As a teenager, Esther taught Bible school to disadvantaged youth in the summers and worked with Jane Addams at Hull House. After a B.A. (1920) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, she did graduate work at Northwestern and Columbia, and in Switzerland. In 1922, she married mining engineer Howard G. Hymer and, after many relocations, they settled in Shrewsbury in 1941.

Active in the American Association for Women (AAUW) as a representative to the National Committee on the Cause and Cure of War (1934) and the National Committee on International Affairs (1935-1940), Hymer, for the former, organized round table discussions nationwide in 1938, and continued serving when it became the Women's Action Committee for Victory and Lasting Peace in 1943. After she attended the 1945 United Nations organizational meeting in San Francisco, Hymer became the International Federation of Business and Professional Women's technical advisor and represented it and other organizations to the UN for about 50 years. She long served on the UN's Commission on the Status of Women and the board of the National Council of Women. Hymer proposed and, from 1975 to 1982, chaired, International Women's Year and the Decade for Women. Even into her 90s, she traveled to the UN by bus. Locally, she volunteered with the YWCA and Girl Scouts and served on the Shrewsbury Planning Board. GDS

"AAUW Honors." *Red Bank Register*, June 20, 1983, B6.

"Dinner to Honor Four Local Women." *Red Bank Register*, March 13, 1991, 15.

"Elected to Board, New York." *Red Bank Register*, October 15, 1962, 9.

[Esther W. Hymer Collection](#), Church Center for the United Nations.

"Esther Wanner Hymer, 102, Women's Movement Pioneer," *Asbury Park Press*, June 1, 2001, B6.

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs—New York City Chapter. [Web](#). [Includes quote by Kofi Annan.]

Nitka, Margaret Dooley. "Ester Hymer, 1898—." *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*. Metuchen, New Jersey and London: 1980, 327-328.



MRS. ILCH WITH CH. LAUND LECTOR OF BELLHAVEN

Above, Mrs. Ilch with Ch. Laund Lector of Bellhaven, from Gayle Kaye, *A Century of Collies*.

Right, trainer Mike Kennedy with Ch. Braegate Model of Bellhaven, from Gayle Kaye, *The Collie in America*.

Opposite page, Laund Loyalty, courtesy Collie Club of America.



Florence Bell Ilch: Award Winning Collie Breeder

Florence B. Ilch put Red Bank on the map of the dog world with her outstanding Collies. For more than forty years on the Navesink River shore, Bellhaven Kennels produced and imported some of the country's best dogs and still holds the records for the first Collie to win the Working Group, and the only Collie to win Best in Show (BIS) at the Westminster Dog Show in 1929. That dog, Laund Loyalty, remains the youngest of any breed to win BIS. The bloodlines of Bellhaven's dogs still appear in the breed today.

Ilch purchased three females to start her own kennel in 1921 from Alstead Kennels in Rahway. For her male, at the extraordinary price of \$1,000, she purchased an 11-month-old puppy named Starbat Strongheart. Strongheart won Best of Breed several times, and for many years, held the record for the most champion offspring. With Strongheart came Mike Kennedy, his handler, shown here with Ch. Braegate Model of Bellhaven in 1943. Kennedy's skill for conditioning, the special diet he developed, and his secret coat potion, kept Bellhaven's dogs in top form. He credited the landscape and climate of the Navesink shore as ideal for Collies, factors resulting in 136 champions.

Jealous breeders caused trouble for Bellhaven. In 1928, minutes before the judging, Ilch received a fake telegram alleging that her son had been killed in an accident. The following year, Ilch claimed that her BIS winner, Laund Loyalty, had been blinded by acid, an unproven allegation.

Bellhaven ceased operation in 1966, with Kennedy's retirement. He passed in 1979 and Ilch followed in 1982. Today, the property is a town park, named after the estate. MH

Kaye, Gayle. *A Century of Collies*. N.p.: Self-published, 2004.

Kaye, Gayle. *The Collie in America*. N.p.: Self-published, 2009.

Jones, Arthur Frederick. "How Those Real Collies Are Made." *The American Kennel Gazette*, 45, no. 1 (January 1928), 9-13, 130.

Jones, Arthur Frederick. "Bellhaven's Fine Record Is Built on True Logic and Simple Love of Dogs." *The American Kennel Gazette*, 50, no.1, (January 1933), 7-11, 76.

Mullen, Shannon. "Haute Dogs." *Asbury Park Press*, July 12, 1998, 67.





Above, cabinet card portraits of Sarah Patterson Johnson by William H. Stauffer, courtesy Sharon Patterson. Below, Sandy Hook Lighthouse by Karen L. Schnitzspahn. Opposite, Sandy Hook Lighthouse keeper salaries, 1860s, including Mrs. Johnson and her brother Charles W. Patterson, National Archives and Records Administration, courtesy Thomas J. Hoffman, National Park Service.



Sarah Patterson Johnson: Assistant Lighthouse Keeper

The women who served as lighthouse keepers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are now recognized as unsung heroes of their time. Although the lonely and rigorous jobs were usually filled by men, a number of women held these positions, typically not by choice but out of necessity. Wives often had to take over when their husbands died or became incapacitated, but a few women were government appointed. A notable assistant keeper from Monmouth County, Sarah Patterson Johnson, tended the historic Sandy Hook Light alongside her brother, head keeper Charles Patterson, from 1864 to 1885.

Born in Howell Township in 1832, Sarah Patterson married James L. Johnson when she was twenty-four. They had two children who died as infants and James died soon afterward. On May 27, 1864, the young widow became assistant keeper at Sandy Hook, probably on her brother's recommendation. When Charles resigned in 1885 Sarah also left the lighthouse and soon became an elementary school teacher at the U.S. Army Sandy Hook Proving Ground. In 1898, with the onset of the Spanish-American War, civilians were not allowed to work there and she had to leave. Sarah spent her final years in Howell, where she owned land and died in 1909.

In her will, Sarah specified that her personal letters should be destroyed but nonetheless they survived. Mary T. Rasa, a National Park Ranger and curator at Sandy Hook (2003-2009) and her interns transcribed them, revealing a treasure trove of details about Sarah Patterson Johnson's remarkable life. KLS

Hoffman, Thomas J., compiler, "Sandy Hook Lighthouse." Gateway National Recreation Area, Sandy Hook Unit, informational leaflet.

Lighthouse keeper ledger book, page 230. Record Group 26, National Archives, via Park Historian's Office, Sandy Hook Unit. Courtesy Tom Hoffman.

New Jersey Women's History. www.njwomenshistory.org/item/sandy-hook-lighthouse/

Rasa, Mary T. "Sandy Hook's Patterson Family: Service to the Sea." GardenStateLegacy.com, GSL20: June 2013.

Sandy Hook Lighthouse Keepers. <https://www.nps.gov/gate/learn/historyculture/lighthousekeepers.htm>

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.

230
 Number of Assistants, 2
Sandy Hook *West Beacon*
 Light-House, District of *New York*

KEEPER.	ASSISTANT KEEPER.	SALARY.	DATE OF APPOINTMENT.	DATE OF VACATION.	HOW VACATED
<i>C. W. Patterson</i>	<i>76⁰</i>	<i>600</i>	<i>Mar 21. 64.</i>		
<i>A. H. Patterson</i>		<i>400</i>	<i>Oct 2. 63.</i>	<i>Sept 20. 1869</i>	<i>Resigned</i>
<i>Mrs. S. Johnson</i>		<i>200</i>	<i>May 27. 64.</i>		
<i>Saml Jewell</i>		<i>450</i>	<i>Sept 20. 69</i>		

An act to prevent accidents from the use of Locomotive Engines on the New Jersey Central Railroad.

Without amendments.

C. L. C. GIFFORD,
Chairman of the Committee
on Judiciary.

Trenton, Feb. 25, 1857.

Which was read.

And, on motion, was accepted.

Mr. Gifford from the Special Committee on the equality of Women's rights,

Reported as follows :

REPORT.

The majority of the Special Committee, to whom was referred the petition of Harriet M. Lafetra and others, inhabitants of the county of Monmouth, stating that they, said petitioners, believe "that men and women alike suffer many evils," and requesting a revision of the statutes of New Jersey, so as to remove "the various and grievous legal disabilities under which the *latter* are placed, and thereby establish the legal equality of women with men," beg leave to report :

That the prayer of the petition embraces a subject of such great and momentous importance, that your Committee have had some hesitancy in entering upon the investigation of the same.

We fully agree with the petitioners that "both men and women alike suffer many evils," but we are not fully prepared to adopt, in its fullest extent, the reason assigned by said petitioners, that they are caused by "the grievous legal disabilities under which the latter are placed."

We find that, from the beginning of the world to the present day, woman, whether under the laws of the Creator—the

Patriarchal government, the Mosaic and Levitical law, or the more benign influences of the christian dispensation, has ever, in the affairs of government, been assigned a position subordinate to that of man.

That from that day when Eve, the mother of us all, first tempted our great progenitor, and thereby introduced sin into the world, she has been considered as entitled to our sympathy, kindness, and tenderest regard; and its civilization has advanced, her rights have been respected, and her privileges extended.

We acknowledge that in intellectual capacities, moral worth, and excellencies, she is often found to be our superior, and that in beauty and loveliness, and charms, we all are compelled to bow before her and acknowledge our inferiority.

But man (of and from whom woman came forth) has ever stood at the head of human government. The first was placed upon the earth—to him was given the government of all created things—to him was entrusted the weightier matter of the law; and whatever may have been the equality before the fall, yet when the fiat went forth, "thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee," that equality in government forever ceased, the woman again became merged in and part of man, for "they twain became one flesh." Her personal identity was lost—lost forever.

Your committee are convinced that great trouble and inconvenience would necessarily arise, not only in the domestic circle, but in all the relations of life, by the legal re-establishment of such equality; and whilst willing and desirous of doing all in their power to facilitate and encourage matrimony, and make a more perfect union between men and women, are most decidedly of the opinion that the world is not yet sufficiently advanced to warrant the extension of the area of "woman's rights," as contemplated in said petition.

If the legislature should attempt to change the laws and re-

Above and opposite, New Jersey Legislature General Assembly. "[Report from the Special Committee](#) addressing the petition of Harriet M. Lafetra requesting equality with men," February 25, 1857. New Jersey State Library.

Harriet M. Lafetra: Women's Rights Activist

Harriet (Price) Lafetra, a Shrewsbury Quaker born in 1823, is remembered for her early demand for women's rights. In 1857, representing herself and other Monmouth County residents, she was probably the first to petition the New Jersey state legislature for equal rights for women. While the New Jersey Assembly agreed 'that men and women alike suffer many evils,' they concluded that they were not ready to revise the constitution of New Jersey, so as to "establish the legal equality of women with men." Nevertheless, Lafetra's efforts helped raise a debate about gender equality.

The Assemblymen proclaimed, "in intellectual capacities, moral worth, and excellencies, [woman] is often found to be our superior, and that in beauty and loveliness, and charms, we all are compelled to bow before her and acknowledge our inferiority." Yet they warned, "But man...has ever stood at the head of human government...." They cautioned that to stipulate equality would mean the "herculean" tasks of amending the constitution and opening "the door to all offices" to women. It concluded, "whilst entertaining the highest respect and expressing the greatest confidence in lovely women," they were compelled "to report adversely to the prayer of their petition." Lafetra, who married Joseph Preston Lafetra in 1844, remained childless, and in the early 1900s, according to the 1905 New Jersey census, was a widow living with her nephew Charles Moore, his wife, and their daughter Harriet, likely named after her. Lafetra died on April 15, 1906, at her home in Shrewsbury. She is buried with her husband at the Shrewsbury Quaker Cemetery. MZ

Kelly, Deborah Marquis, et al. *Women's Place in New Jersey History*. Crosswicks, New Jersey: Preservation Partners, 2004, 28.

Lurie, Maxine, et al., eds. *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2004, 882.

New Jersey Historic Preservation Office. *New Jersey Women's Heritage Trail*. Trenton: New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, 2004, 54.

["New Jersey Women's History,"](#) Alice Paul Institute. Web.

554

move all the legal liabilities and restrictions, it would not only require a complete renovation of the statute book, but of the constitution also, and opens a prospect anything but encouraging to a deliberative body, whose time is as short as that before us. It would be a task in comparison of which the labors of Hercules sink into insignificance. We would have to open the door to all offices, and permit women to be elected governors, members of legislature, secretaries and treasurers of state, sheriffs, constables, members of corporate bodies, presidents, cashiers and directors of banks, (whether under general or special laws)—in fact, to all and every office, directly or indirectly, in the gift of the people.

"Is the House ready for the question?"

Your committee, therefore, whilst entertaining the highest respect and expressing the greatest confidence in lovely woman, and being now, as ever, ready to extend to them love, honor, respect, comfort, and protection, and believing that it is the duty of every man, married or in the state of single blessedness, (?) to make woman happy, and her home a paradise; and also believing that this can only be accomplished by the preservation of the laws as they are respecting legal equality, are compelled, painful though it may be to the petitioners, to report adversely to the prayer of their petition.

All which is respectfully submitted.

C. L. C. GIFFORD,
JOHN P. HARKER.

Which was read, and

Mr. White moved

That the report be accepted, and that five hundred copies be printed for the use of this House.

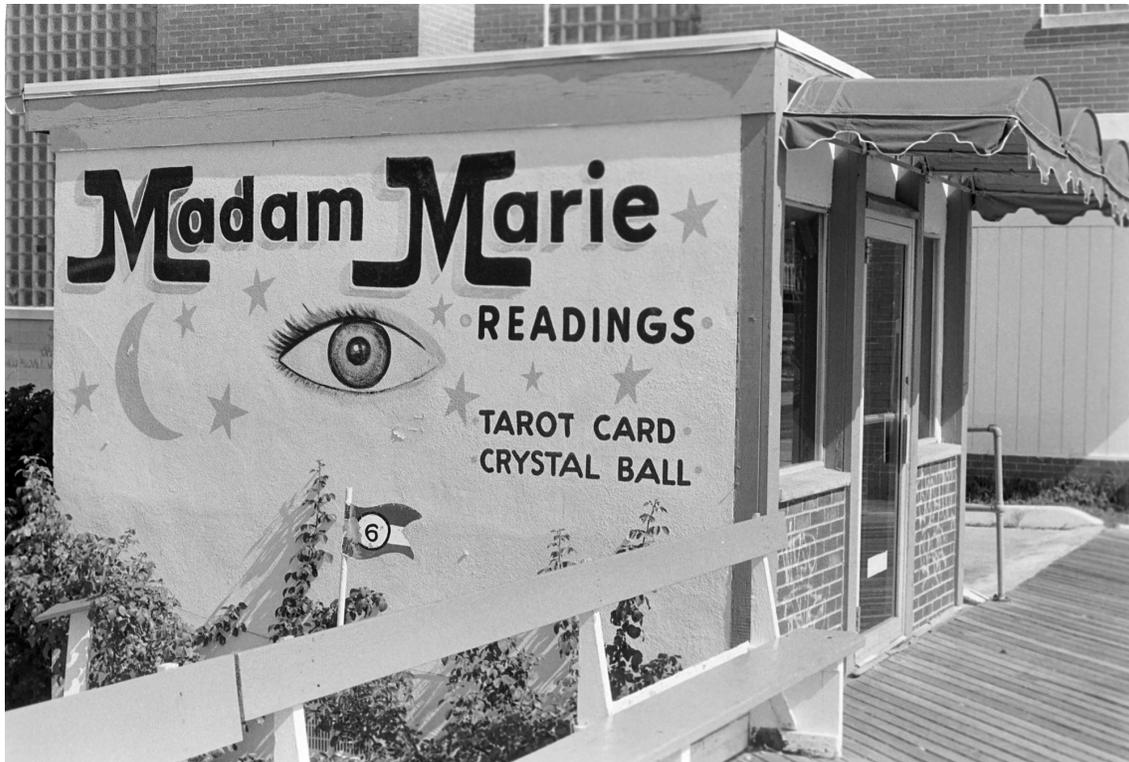
Mr. McDonald moved

To lay the report of the special committee on the table.

Which motion was agreed to.



Above, Madam Marie's on the Asbury Park Boardwalk in 2014, by Karen L. Schnitzspahn. Below, Madam Marie's in August 1985 by Caroline E. Couig for the *Red Bank Register*, 1985-08-063aRBR, Monmouth County Archives. Opposite, ad for Madam Marie's, *Asbury Park Press*, July 16, 2003, 92.



Madam Marie: Fortune-Teller

When Bruce Springsteen made her name famous worldwide in 1973, “Madam Marie” Castello had already operated a thriving business on the Asbury Park Boardwalk for decades. The lyrics in Springsteen’s 4th of July, *Asbury Park (Sandy)* include a line about her being “busted” by the police, but Marie Castello was probably never arrested. In fact, she was well respected. Born in Neptune City, she first opened her tiny booth known as The Temple of Knowledge in 1932 while still in her teens. Elite vacationers in evening gowns and tuxedos paid her to tell their fortunes. Though they dressed well, despite the Great Depression, her customers sought reassurance that life would get better.

By the 1960s-1970s, the clientele on the boardwalk had changed. The mostly day tripper crowd was younger and casually clad. Madam Marie reportedly told a fledgling musician (Springsteen) who spent time in front of her booth that his future looked “pretty good.” Marie had concerns about the decline of tourism in Asbury Park and the future of her business. But she predicted that the city would make a comeback and she was right.

Marie, married for seventy years to Walter Castello, a car salesman, died in 2008 at the age of ninety-three. Her granddaughters carried on the business and rebuilt the landmark shack after Superstorm Sandy in 2012. The logo on the signs changed somewhat over the years but the one mystical eye remains. Springsteen paid homage to Madam Marie on his website and commented: “The world has lost enough mystery as it is—we need our fortune-tellers.” KLS

“Bruce Springsteen – Madam Marie, 1988.” U-tube [video](#).

Ford, Andrew. “[Granddaughters Run Historic Asbury Park Fortune-Telling Shop](#),” *Asbury Park Press*, Web only, August 31, 2015.

Handleman, Bill. “Asbury’s Temple of Knowledge Survives.” *Asbury Park Press*, May 4, 2008, AA1.

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.

Vitka, William. “[Madame Marie Is Back](#).” CBS, July 19, 2004.

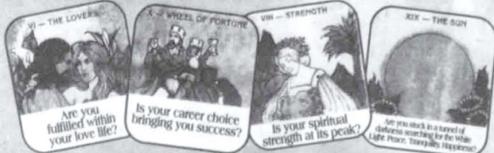
World Famous
Madame Marie


SPIRITUAL READER
SINCE 1932

Who isn't curious about what's ahead? • Love, career, marriage, money? Marie, Spiritual Reader and Advisor, may provide some answers. "I am a world-renowned psychic reader and advisor with 70 years experience," explains Madame Marie, who has been in Asbury Park & Ocean Twp. since 1932.

Are you worried? Afraid to make decisions? Just one visit will give you the answer.

Love • Marriage • Career • Health • Tarot Cards • Crystals • Chakra & Aura Readings



Marie became aware of her psychic gift early, and was guided by her angels. "They told me not to fear it, but to embrace it," says Marie. "It's a wonderful gift, a chance to help people. My greatest pleasure is working with people and advising them. Often, they are at a crossroad in life, and I can provide information to help them." Using her method of reading Tarot cards, crystals, tea leaves and palms, Marie focuses on the clients' energy forces through Chakra and Aura. Readings range from 20 minutes to an hour. "The spiritual and psychic world is very important to many people from all walks of life, and of all ages," adds Marie. "I offer a comfortable, relaxing setting, and readings are private and confidential. People who come here really enjoy it!"

Available for parties & social gatherings

New office location:
2005 A Bellmore Street,
Oakhurst, NJ (Dom's Plaza)
Open daily from 10 a.m.-9 p.m.

For appointment or more information call
732-531-5575 • 732-775-5327
A.P. Boardwalk

\$5
PALM
READINGS



1950
 1 to r: Bev Dickerson, Commodore
 June Methot, Hatchel (Oscar) Brand,
 Everett Baynton, Howard Hathaway,
 Bill Bennett

Above, June Methot sailing, courtesy Lee Ingram.
 Left, Methot holding trophy, 1950 Lightning Cham-
 pionship, Monmouth Boat Club, courtesy Monmouth
 Boat Club.

Below, Methot holding trophy, 1964 Monmouth
 Boat Club Hall-Out Dinner, courtesy Monmouth
 Boat Club.



June Methot: National Sailing Champion

Skipper June Haywood Methot was born with sailing in her blood: she traced her ancestors back to 17th century Cape May whalers. June was winning sailboat races as early as 1938, when the fifteen-year-old from Long Branch captured first place on the Navesink River. By the time Methot won the New Jersey State Lightning Class Championship in 1950 and again in 1955, she was one of the best skippers of Lightning sailboats in the country.

The Lightning is a 19-foot centerboard sloop that carries a large spinnaker sail. It is raced with a three-member crew. Methot skippered her “Bon Gré” (from French, “Willingly”), then “Shantey” (variation of “chantey,” a sea song), and others to many titles, including the prestigious Adams Cup in 1968. The Adams Cup was a national sailing championship open to only women until 2011, when it became the United States Adult Sailing Championship, open to both sexes. In 1968, the United States Sailing Association (also known as US Sailing) named Methot the “Rolex Yachtswoman of the Year.”

A long-time member of the Monmouth Boat Club, Methot willingly shared her knowledge and love of sailing with its junior members. The club authorized the “June Methot Trophy,” given annually to the most improved junior sailor. She believed that women were superior as sailboat skippers, stating, “Women have a more delicate touch. This enables them to get more out of a boat, and that’s the important thing.” She found excitement and success in competitive sailing, proving that her light touch on the tiller created less drag, key to winning sailboat races.

In addition to racing, Methot authored several books on local history, including *Up and Down the River*, about the Navesink. She died in Middletown in 2003. GJ

“Girl Captures Red Bank Race.” *Asbury Park Press*, July 10, 1938, 13.

“June Haywood Methot.” [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, July 23, 2003, 26.

Methot, June. *Up & Down the Beach*. Navesink, New Jersey: Whip Publishers, 1988.

Methot, June. *Up & Down the River*. Navesink, New Jersey: Whip Publishers, 1985.

“Miss Methot Sold on Lightning As Best Sailboat on the Water.” *Asbury Park Press*, August 28, 1955, 24.

“Monmouth Boat Club’s Junior Sailors Hold Awards Dinner.” *Red Bank Register*, September 10, 1965, 18.



Right, June Methot, school portrait, courtesy Lee Ingram.



America's Favorite Comedienne

MAGGIE MITCHELL

AND
HER OWN DRAMATIC CO.

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF
Mr. CHARLES ABBOTT

IN A BRILLIANT
REPERTOIRE
INCLUDING

**RAY, FANCHON,
LITTLE BAREFOOT, JANE EYRE AND LORLE**

Interpreted by the following Ladies & Gentlemen
Ida Burroughs, Jennie Carroll,
Annie Chase, Carrie Francis,
Rose Berutich, Howard Gould,
R.F. McClannin, George W. Deyo,
Edward Poland, Sheridan Jupper,
J.F. Duncan, Phil McCarthy, P. Johnson.

Professor Otto Vogler. Musical Director.
C.T. Alwood, Business Manager.

Top left, Maggie Mitchell by George Rockwood, carte-de-visite, c.1880, Gary D. Saretzky collection. Others courtesy Karen L. Schnitzspahn. Upper right, Mitchell's cottage, detail of stereograph by G.W. Pach. Bottom, advertising card, front and back. Opposite, Mitchell in stereograph by Jeremiah Gurney, c.1870.

Maggie Mitchell: Performer and Entrepreneur

One of the most beloved actresses of the nineteenth century, Maggie Mitchell never seemed to age. Born in New York City, c.1837, the feisty performer played the title role in *Fanchon the Cricket* (based on a story by George Sand) for more than twenty years and earned the nickname of “The Merry Cricket.” Margaret Julia Mitchell’s life centered around the stage, but she spent relaxing summers at Elberon where she reigned as unofficial queen of the Long Branch actors’ colony.

Mitchell married her longtime beau, Harry Paddock, in 1868 and he became her manager. With their children, Fanchon and Harry, they summered in a cottage on the south side of Cedar Avenue. In 1872, Maggie purchased the McVicker cottage near the southwest corner of Park and Norwood avenues (now Ocean Township). This home, where she entertained celebrities, soon became known as “Cricket Lodge.” In 1888, the couple divorced and the following year Maggie married her leading man, Charles Abbott.

Although Mitchell gradually retired from acting, she produced plays and invested in real estate. The Abbotts enjoyed summers at Elberon and maintained a year-round apartment in Manhattan. After reportedly suffering a fall at Cricket Lodge in 1917, Maggie died at her New York home the following year.

It is rumored that Mitchell was romantically involved with Lincoln’s assassin John Wilkes Booth. Although she acted on stage with him early in her career, the relationship is doubtful. The great Ziegfeld Follies director Julian Mitchell (born c.1851), who lived in West Long Branch, was allegedly Maggie’s nephew or possibly her son from an early marriage. KLS

Durnell Collection, Long Branch Free Public Library.

“Maggie Mitchell, ‘Fanchon,’ Dies at 81.” *New York Times*, March 23, 1918, .

McKay, F.E. and Charles E.L. Wingate, eds. *Famous American Actors of Today*. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Company, 1896.

Schnitzspahn, Karen. *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.

Schnitzspahn, Karen. *Stars of the New Jersey Shore*. Atglen, Pennsylvania: Schiffer Publishing, 2007.





Left, Molly Pitcher re-enactor, June 1978, *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives, 1978-06-080RBR.

Below, Rev. George Swain's discourse mentioning Molly as possibly Mary Hanna of Allentown, New Jersey, June 20, 1876, courtesy John Fabiano. Sarah Smith Stafford (see main caption) was Swain's source.

Opposite, Battle of Monmouth mural by Gerald Foster, 1936, on view at the Monmouth County Library, Manalapan, photograph by Gary D. Saretzky.

"Historical discourse in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Allentown
Rev. George Swain - delivered June 20, 1876 and vicinity"

tion states, took possession of the church. Though Maxwell's brigade and Morgan's 600 riflemen were hanging on the front and left of the British, meanwhile, it seems that in our neighborhood there was no serious skirmishing. The bridges on the streams had all, however, been removed, and one of the Wain family, some time deceased, tells her astonishment at the rapidity with which the red-coats constructed a new bridge in the vicinity of the mill. We have cause to infer also that our community suffered comparatively little from the invader. There was enough, doubtless, of foraging and waste of standing crops, as also of what could be stolen from cellars and farm-yards. It may be further stated that one or more of the inhabitants were shot and a few taken prisoners, Mr. Montgomery, of Eglinton, among the number. But, saving these casualties, Allentown came off rather well at the hands of the British; indeed, its record throughout the whole struggle shows it highly favored in exemption from loss and suffering. As near as Imlaystown and on south towards our shore, there was terrible harassment, inflicted by bands known as the Refugees. These were the scum of the various communities who gathered in our deep pine forests, issuing thence to rob, murder, or commit any outrage in their power against the loyalist. These villains may have had one or two of their number from Allentown, but here they did little harm. But while thus it fared with us from the enemy, meantime the stalwart men of our region were not wanting in devotion to the country's cause. The names of Bruere, Imlay, Montgomery, Newell, Hay, Robbins, Rhea, Forman, Hendrickson, and a goodly number we cannot mention, are honorable among the sons of Monmouth who battled and bled on the patriot side. Moreover, from among us it is said⁹⁹ was the famous Molly Pitcher; she who, at the battle of Monmouth, acted the role of cannoneer in the place of her husband or some other brave who had fallen beside his gun. She is reputed to have been the daughter of one Jno. Hanna, of Allentown, was of North of Ireland extraction, and had been for a time a servant in the family of the father

of Captain James Bruere. She was, perhaps, the wife of a soldier named Jno. Maban. And yet further shall we not mention with honest pride that, noble as may have been the record of others in the strife, that of the Presbyterian element was second to none in loyalty and valor. Elsewhere we know it wrote and signed the first declaration⁹⁹ of resistance to England's injustice, and here when the conflict began its sons held not back, but were among the first to take the field for liberty and our land. It could not well have been otherwise. At least, they had been a sadly degenerate race if not bold to withstand whatever had likeness to tyranny and wrong. For were they not children of fathers who either behind the dykes of Holland against the bloody Alva; or on the plains of France in the Huguenot cause; or among the hills and moors of Scotland, as invincible Covenanters, stood firm to the death—resisting the oppressor's power? Thus illustrious in freedom's great battle had been their sires; our heroes were but true to these as they rose to drive tyranny from these western shores. But we return to the narrative of our church.

The Rev. Mr. Schenck having removed about 1778, we find that in the Spring of the following year a call was presented from Allentown and Nottingham, for the pastoral services of Mr. Geo. Faitoute. Of Nottingham, to which he was to devote one-third of his time, this is the earliest mention, and however the congregation of this place came into being, it was destined for many years to be to all intents and purposes one with our own. As long as the connection existed there seems to have been one Session caring for both churches. Mr. Faitoute was pastor but for two years, as the minutes of Presbytery record his dismissal in 1781. We know nothing definite either of the man or his work. In the resolution of Presbytery, touching his request to change, it is intimated that his ministry for some cause had not been prosperous. Whither he went we cannot tell.

Following his removal there was again a protracted vacancy, the church becoming dependent for three years

Molly Pitcher: Revolutionary War Heroine

Molly Pitcher is renowned for her heroism at the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, but her fame as the woman who fired a cannon after her husband fell came years later. First mentioned in print in 1830, she was popularized in the 1850s, when writers and painters called her "Captain Molly" or "Sergeant Molly." By 1860, she became "Moll Pitcher" or "Molly Pitcher," referencing the story that she brought water to cool the cannon or refresh the soldiers.

Molly was very likely Mrs. Mary (Molly) McCauley, who died in Carlisle, PA. Her 1832 obituary stated that she had been married to a Revolutionary War artilleryman named Hays. Historians found a John Hays married to a Mary Ludwig, and a Casper Hays at the Battle of Monmouth. They concluded that Casper and John must be the same man and that Mary Ludwig, of German origin, was Molly Pitcher.

Earlier accounts that Mary McCauley was clearly Irish were ignored; Mary Ludwig's descendants took pride in their illustrious German American ancestor. But by 1975, historian Samuel Stelle Smith determined that, at war's end, Mary McCauley was married to a William Hays. In a remarkable coincidence, both Casper and William Hays were artillerymen from Carlisle and both had wives named Mary. But if Mrs. William Hays was not Mary Ludwig, who was she? A Trenton collector of Revolutionary War relics, Miss Sarah Smith Stafford (1800-1880) claimed that Molly was a Mary Hannah from Allentown, Upper Freehold. Stafford also claimed to own Molly's own gown. But Stafford's reliability is questionable. Molly's origins remain an unsolved mystery.

Since 1992, the Freehold Post Office has loaned Gerald Sargent Foster's W.P.A. mural painting of Molly Pitcher to the Monmouth County Library. GDS

Martin, David G. *A Molly Pitcher Sourcebook*. Hightstown, New Jersey: Longstreet House, 2003.

Sarah Smith Stafford file, Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Free Public Library. [Includes "The Old Lady of Revolutionary Fame," clipping, source unknown, circa 1878-1879.]

Saretzky, Gary D. [*Searching for Molly Pitcher: An Exhibition*](#). Monmouth County Library, Manalapan, October 2001. Monmouth County Archives. [Includes history and bibliography.]

Smith, Samuel Stelle. "The Search for Molly Pitcher." *Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine*, Volume 109 (April 1975), 292.

"A Tale of '76," *Washington Review and Examiner* (Washington, Pennsylvania), 14:3 (May 29, 1830), 1. [Early published account of Molly Pitcher, not included in Martin's *Sourcebook*.]





Above, Alice Neel with Geza de Vegh, March 21, 1974. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives. 1974-03-018RBR. Published March 27 with a caption that read in part, "Alice Neel, 74-year-old New York portraitist and her friend Geza DeVegh looking at "Linda Nochlin and Daisey," an art historian from Vermont and her daughter whose portrait is part of a one-woman exhibit on view this week at the Old Mill Gallery, Tinton Falls, housed in Mr. DeVegh's home."

Alice Neel: Portrait Painter

Artist Alice Neel, who had major retrospectives at the Whitney Museum (1974) and the Georgia Museum of Art (1975), was a long-term, part-time Monmouth County resident. With her parents, she first summered in Belmar in 1934 and from 1935 in Spring Lake, where she spent summers until her death. Born in 1900 and raised in the Philadelphia area, this “quintessential bohemian” grew up in a middle-class family. Motivated to become an artist, she took night courses beginning in 1921 at what became Moore College of Art. At a summer session at the Philadelphia Academy of Art, she met Carlos Enrique, a wealthy Cuban. After their marriage in 1925, they moved to Havana where Neel had her first exhibition in 1927. Relocating to New York, the couple lost their first daughter at age one to diphtheria. In 1930, Carlos abandoned Neel, taking their second daughter with him. Neel became a painter of the intelligentsia, had several more relationships, and raised two sons. These sons eventually had families of their own and they all spent their summers with Alice in Spring Lake.

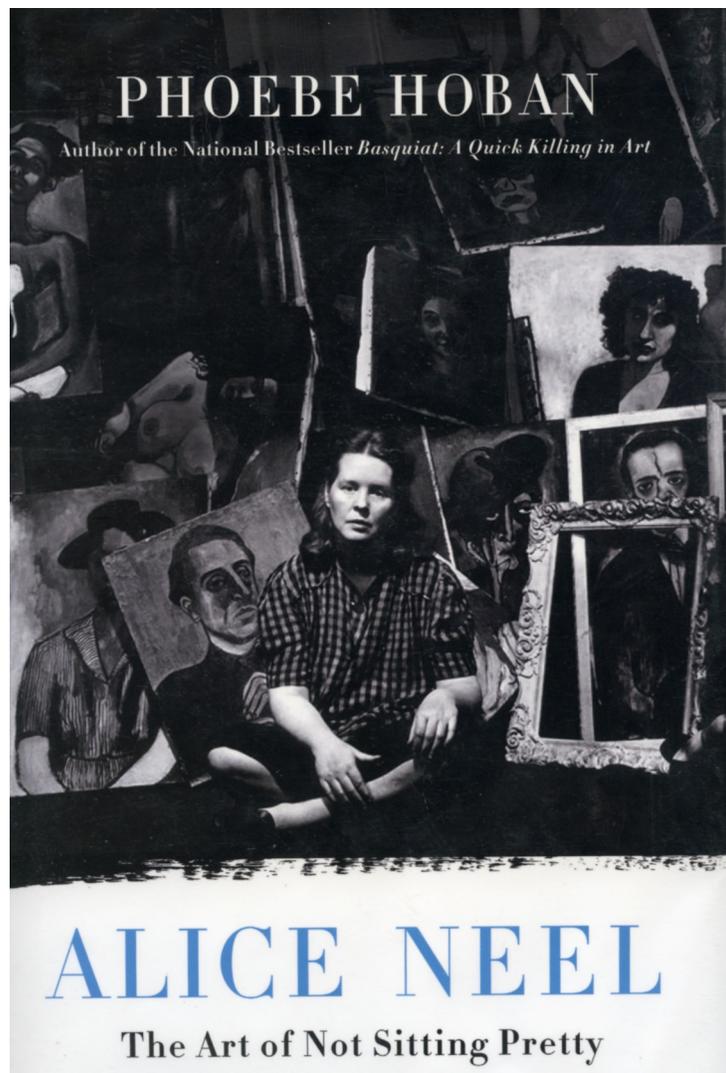
With her children grown, beginning in the 1950s, Neel had time to do numerous portraits of luminaries, including Andy Warhol, civil rights leader James Farmer, and scientist Linus Pauling. Her work was exclusively handled by the prestigious Robert Miller Gallery in New York. In Monmouth, she befriended Geza de Vegh, owner of the Old Mill (later The Dam Site) in Tinton Falls, which he developed into a cultural center. Neel painted his twin daughters and had shows at the Old Mill. She continued working until the year of her death, 1984. GDS

Henry, Sara. “Alice Neel, 1900-1984” in *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women*. Metuchen, New Jersey & London: Scarecrow Press, 1990, 366-368.

Hills, Patricia. *Alice Neel*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1983.

Jacobsen, Carol. “Alice Neel, 1900-1984; ‘Collector of Souls’ Honored by Museum on What Would Have Been 85th Birthday.” *Asbury Park Press*, January 13, 1985, G1.

Right, cover of Phoebe Hoban, Phoebe. *Alice Neel: The Art of Not Sitting Pretty*. New York: St. Martin’s Press, 2010.





Left, painted portrait, Middletown Township Public Library, photo by Randall Gabrielan.

Below, aerial view of Neuberger home in Middletown, courtesy Monmouth County Parks System. 58.436 SRA.

Opposite, in an October 17, 1974 photo, Katharine Neuberger, a member of the Republican National Committee, is on the left with Mary Louise Smith, Chair, Republican National Committee, the first woman elected chair. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives. 1974-10-070RBR.



Katharine Neuberger: Political Power with a Conscience

Prominent public servant Katharine Alma Kridel was born in 1907 in New York to Jewish parents. She rose through the ranks following 1927 graduation from Barnard College as a political science major. After Katharine married Harry H. Neuberger in 1929, they settled in New York, with dual residency after their 1933 purchase of Sunnyside Farm, Middletown, seen here.

Geraldine Thompson, a mentor and lifelong friend, affiliated Neuberger with the Monmouth County Office for Social Services where, following her appointment in 1937, she served twenty-two years on the board. In 1940, Neuberger was appointed to the Board of Managers of the Clinton Reformatory for Women. Serving on the parole committee exposed her to the problems of inmates and shaped her political philosophy, as she explained, “That’s why I am a liberal.”

Thompson secured Neuberger a seat on the New Jersey State Federation of Republican Women. After she attended her first GOP National Convention in 1952, Neuberger had the honor of nominating vice-presidential candidate Henry Cabot Lodge in 1960. Neuberger became a leading voice in party circles, serving as New Jersey Republican National Committeewoman, 1961-76, the last three years on the executive committee. Declining to run for elected office, Neuberger in late-career served many years on the New Jersey State Board of Higher Education.

The Neuberger, who regarded their Jewish background as a roadblock to social aspirations, became Episcopalians, a conversion kept a family secret for some time. Katharine became a stalwart of Christ Church, Middletown, where her memorial service was held in 1982. Sunnyside Farm is now Monmouth County’s Sunnyside Recreation Area. RG

“Everett Farm Sold; New York Man Buys the Ernest Wadley Property.” *Red Bank Register*, November 22, 1933, 12.

“GOP Leader—She Rose in Party, Now Gives Warning.” *Red Bank Register*, July 25, 1978, 3.

“National Leader Tells GOP Women Party Is ‘Best Hope.’” *Red Bank Register*, October 18, 1974, 1. Includes photo of Neuberger with Mary Louise Smith. Monmouth County Archives, 1974-10-070RBR.

“Neuberger Eulogized as Committed and Devoted.” *Red Bank Register*, October 19, 1982, 4.

“Services Tomorrow for Katharine Neuberger.” *Red Bank Register*, October 17, 1982, A4.

Wilson, Susie [née Neuberger]. *Still Running – A Memoir*. N.p.: The Author, 2014.





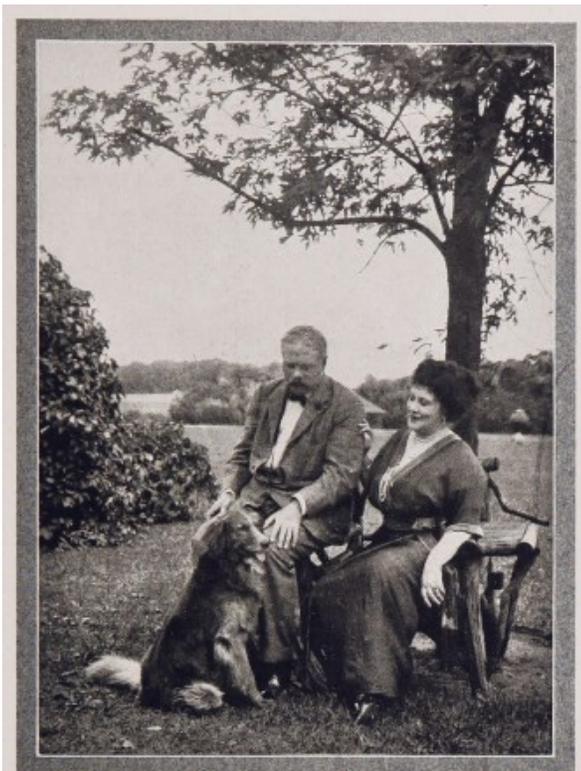
Photo by Histed

NORDICA AS ISOLDE

Left, photograph by Ernest Walter Histed of Lillian Nordica as Isolde in Richard Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, from Kobbé (see bibliography on next page).

Below, left, Nordica with her husband George W. Young at their home in Deal. *Town & Country*, June 19, 1911, both courtesy Randall Gabrielan.

Below, right, one of Nordica's concert gowns. Opposite, Nordica as Brünnhilde in Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (*The Ring of the Nibelung*) painted by Samuel Burtis Baker in 1910, both courtesy The Metropolitan Opera.



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE W. YOUNG

At their bungalow in Deal, N. J. Mrs. Young on the operatic stage is Mme. Nordica



Lillian Nordica: Opera Diva with Marital Drama

Lillian Allen Norton, born 1857 at Farmington, Maine, studied at the New England Conservatory, Boston. After graduation and public appearances, Lillian studied in Milan, where she made her debut in 1879 in *Don Giovanni*, and was bestowed the stage name “Nordica.” She performed next in Russia and Paris and later at the Royal Opera House, London.

Nordica made her New York debut in 1883 at the Academy of Music, a rival of the Metropolitan Opera, with which she later became closely associated, giving 394 performances from 1891 to 1909. With an enormous voice well-suited for dramatic roles, Nordica enjoyed her greatest overseas success at Bayreuth, Germany, initially as Elsa in *Lohengrin* in 1894. In 1898, she debuted the Brunhilde role at the Met, pictured in the displayed 1910 painting.

Nordica’s domestic life was punctuated by drama comparable to operas. While divorce proceedings with Frederick Gower were underway, he disappeared, likely killed in a balloon accident. An estate struggle ensued. Nordica, who married Hungarian tenor Zoltan Doeme in 1896, was threatened by him with violence while divorcing. After protracted rumors, Nordica then married financier George Young in 1909. The New York based couple established a second residence in Deal where they celebrated in a ballyhooed party at a home ostensibly built for her; Young retained the title. Nordica, her health and career fading, became shipwrecked while on a farewell world tour in 1914. While attempting to convalesce from the ordeal, she executed a will that cut out Young, whom she earlier had lent \$400,000. She died on May 10, 1914, in Batavia, Java. Young’s lengthy attempt to overturn the will was unsuccessful. RG

“Mme. Nordica: The Vivacious American.” *Chicago Daily Tribune*, February, 5, 1884, 8.

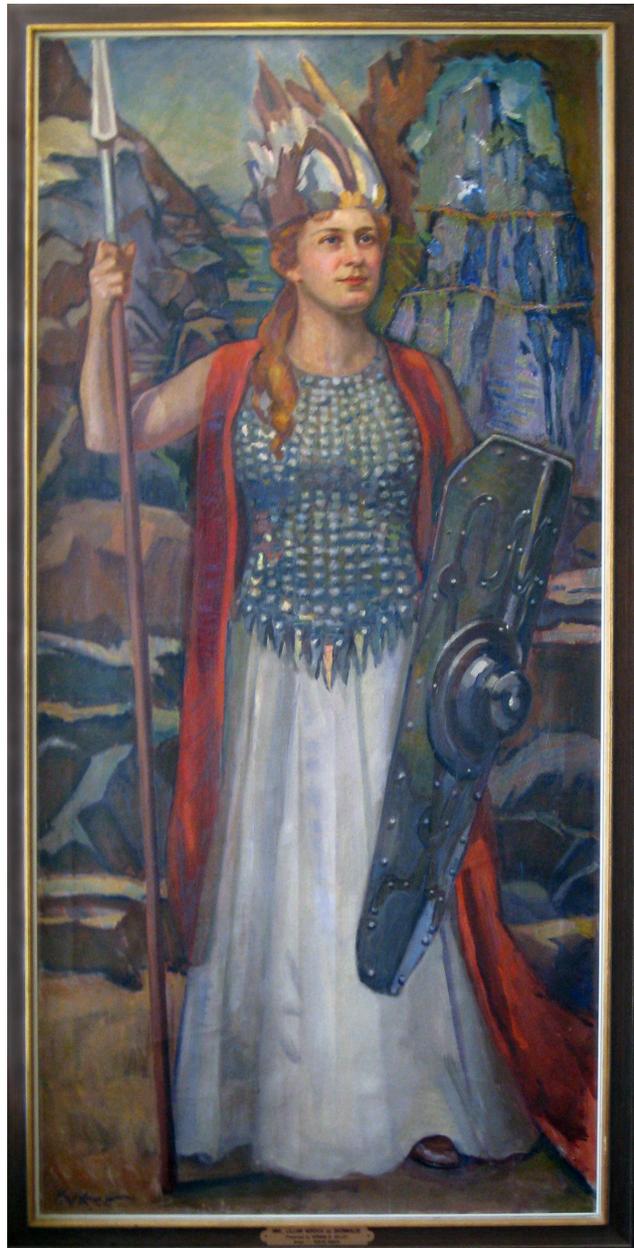
Glackens, Ira. *Yankee Diva—Lillian Nordica and the Golden Days of Opera*. New York: Coleridge Press, 1963.

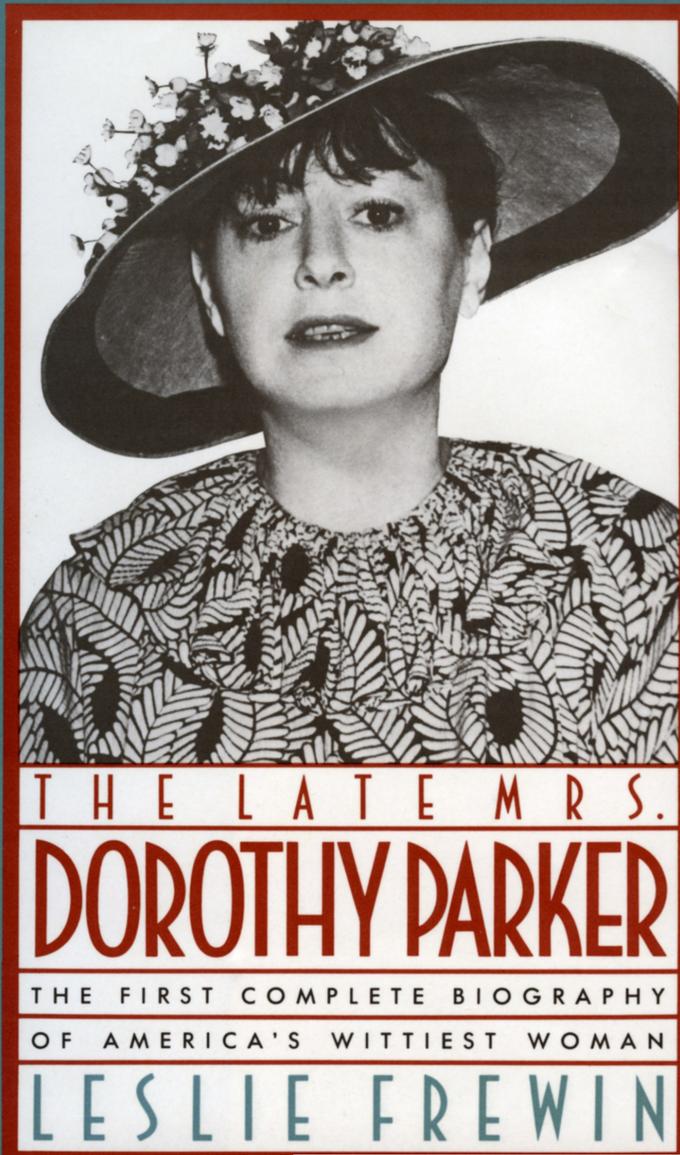
Kobbé, Gustav. *Wagner’s Music-Dramas Analyzed*. New York: G. Schirmer, 1904.

“Lillian Nordica.” *New York Times*, December 13, 1896, SM1.

“Mme. Nordica Dies in Batavia, Java.” *New York Times*, May 11, 1914, 11.

Town & Country, June 19, 1911. [Includes illustration of Nordica and Young.]

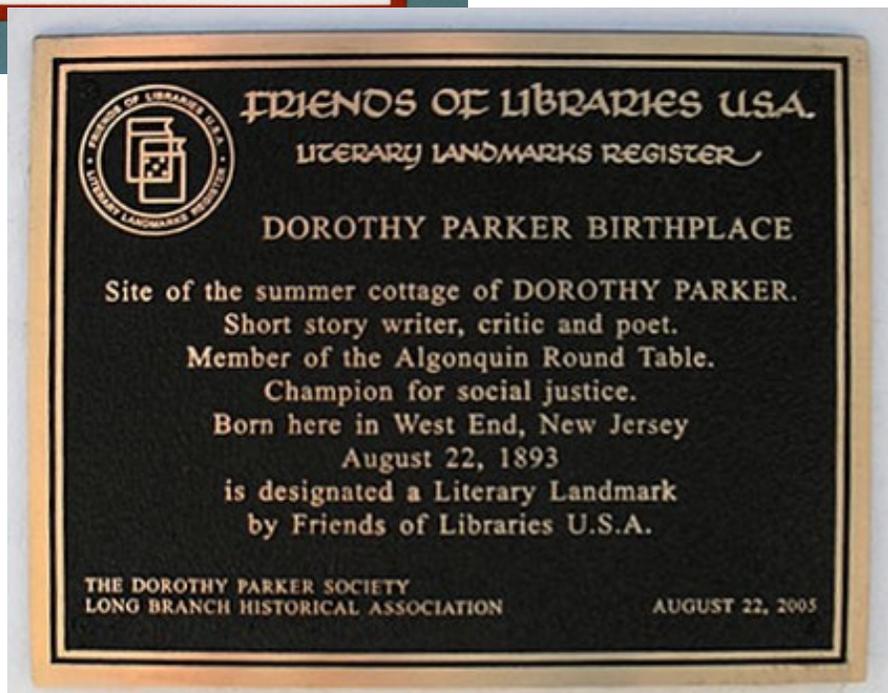




Left, cover of Leslie Frewin, *The Late Dorothy Parker: The First Complete Biography of America's Wittiest Woman*. New York: Macmillan, 1986.

Below, plaque at Dorothy Parker's birthplace site in West End, Long Branch, photo by Randall Gabrielan.

Opposite, first day cover with Dorothy Parker 29-cent postage stamp, issued August 22, 1992, courtesy Gary D. Saretzky.



Dorothy Parker: Writer and Literary Critic

Dorothy Parker's premature birth on August 22, 1893, at the 732 Ocean Avenue, West End, Long Branch summer home of her parents, the Jacob Henry Rothschilds, made her a New Jersey native. While this quintessential New Yorker did not fondly embrace her Garden State origins, the birth site of one of America's celebrated women writers of her generation is commemorated on the Friends of Libraries USA Literary Landmarks Register with an interpretive plaque.

Parker specialized in criticism, verse, and the short story, but is arguably best known for her satirical, biting and often caustic humor. Closely identified with the Algonquin Round Table, a gathering of the sharp, clever, and witty who met at that New York hotel, she held prominent positions at *Vanity Fair* and the *New Yorker*. Established early under her maiden name, she married Edwin Pond Parker II in 1917 and retained his surname after their 1922 separation and eventual divorce. While much of Parker's best work was produced about that time, in the 1920s struggles with depression and alcoholism emerged. Parker married a younger actor, Alan Campbell, in 1934. After the pair departed for Hollywood to pursue screenwriting, Parker's output diminished.

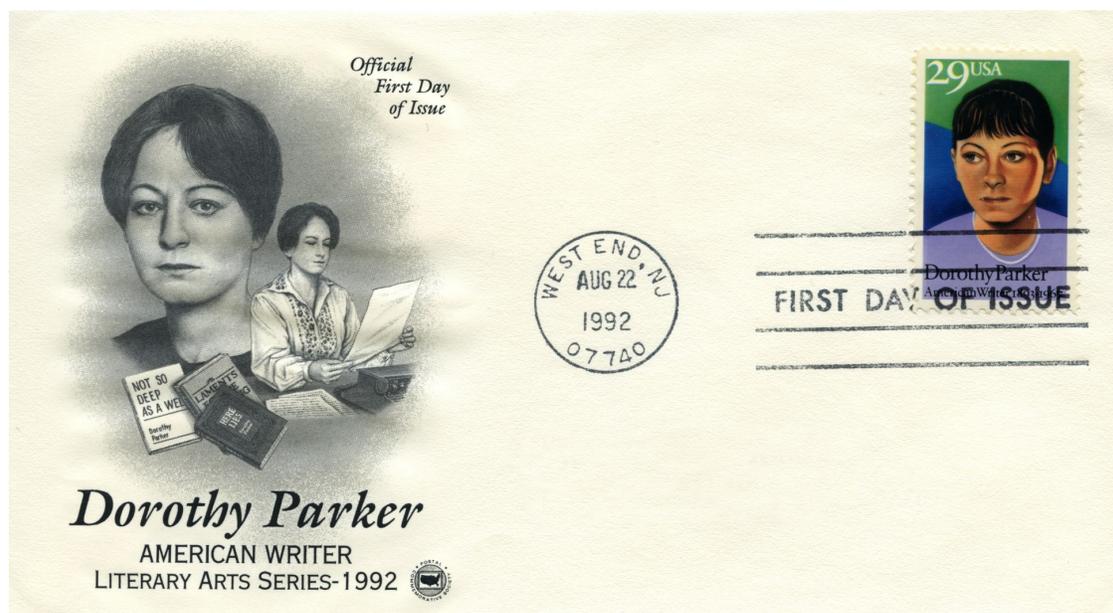
Parker's two great loves were her dogs and martinis, taking the former everywhere despite "no animal" constraints. She had long-been an advocate of liberal causes, although not civil rights matters. Parker died in 1967 with no known survivors, leaving her modest estate, including copyrights, to Martin Luther King, instructing that they be conveyed to the NAACP. Honored with a Literary Arts postage stamp, the August 22, 1992, First Day of Issue ceremonies were held in West End Park near her birth site. RG

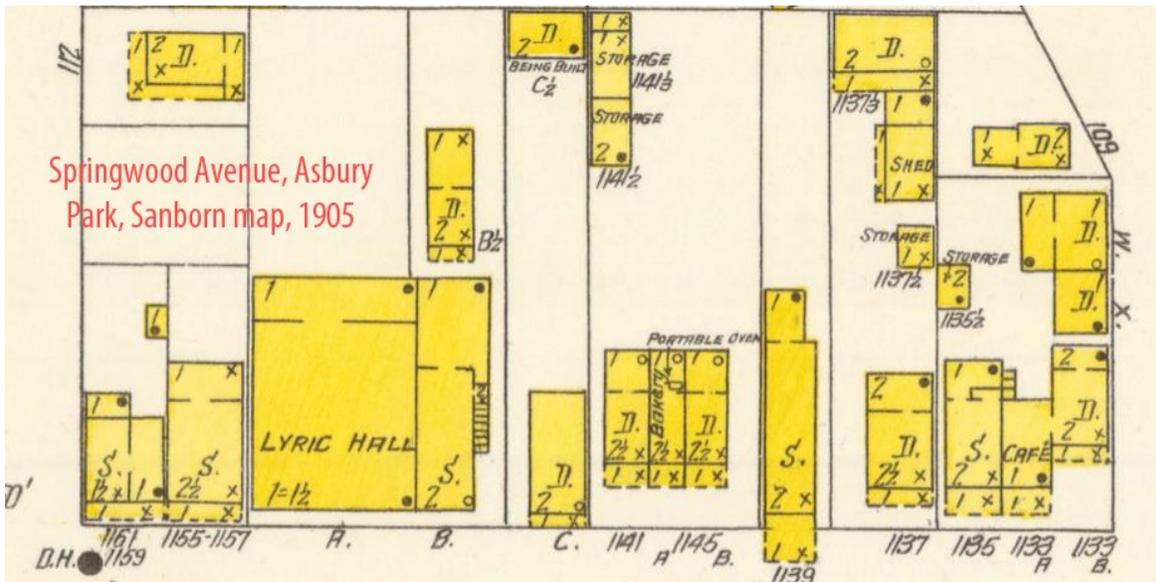
Acocella, Joan. "After the Laughs." *The New Yorker*, August 16, 1993.

Fitzpatrick, Kevin C. *A Journey into Dorothy Parker's New York. Second Edition.* Berkeley, California: Roaring Forties Press, 2013.

Gabrielan, Randall. *Birth of the Jersey Shore—The Personalities and Politics that Built America's Resort.* Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.

Whitman, Alden. "Dorothy Parker, 73, Literary Wit, Dies." *New York Times*, June 8, 1967, 1.





Above, 1905 Sanborn insurance map, Asbury Park, showing location of Lyric Hall and Garden on Springwood Avenue, which runs along the bottom of the map. Courtesy Princeton University Libraries.

Right, first page of letter requesting leniency in sentencing of Kate Patterson's husband Frank, February 6, 1906, on Lyric Hall and Garden stationery, showing Kate Patterson as both Treasurer and performer Te-Wan-Ka. The letter is from the white owner, whose signature (not shown here) is illegible. Frank was sentenced to 18 months for Atrocious Assault on a customer, who also asked the judge for leniency. State vs. W. Frank Patterson, Court of General Quarter Sessions, 1905-1907. Monmouth County Archives.

Opposite, portrait of Patterson from "Expressional Power of the Colored Race." *Werner's Magazine*, 26 (1901): 471.

LYRIC HALL AND GARDEN

Largest Afro-American Amusement Resort in America

LYRIC ORCHESTRA
IRA WALKER, Electrician
K. A. PATTERSON, Treasurer

W. FRANK PATTERSON, Manager

Asbury Park, N. J. February 6, 1906.

ANNEX

*Lyric
Billiard
Pool
and
Shaving
Parlor*

BEST ORDER

*Lyric
Amusement
Supply
Agency*

TE-WAN-KA

Humorist
*Can be engaged
for Concerts*

*Vocalist, Dancers
and Musicians
furnished for all
occasions*

Only artists supplied

Hon. John E. Foster, Judge,
Freehold, N. J.

My dear Sir,

I acquired the Lyric Hall property from Mr. Samuel A. Patterson at the time of the Monmouth Trust failure when so many of our eminent citizens suffered loss.

Not wishing to lose the prestige of a distinguished name in connection with its management I employed W. Frank Patterson to conduct the business.

Lyric Hall is a place fitted up especially for the entertainment of colored people, a people inclined to be boisterous and difficult of management, notably so in the summer season when great numbers of them come to our City for employment, yet in all this time there has never been a row or cause for complaint in the place before.

I have always found Mr. Patterson to be thoroughly honest and reliable. I know him to be a man whose purpose is to be decent and to do right. I think that he thoroughly regrets that he allowed his temper to get the better of his judgment, although the conduct of Franklin was most exasperating.

Kate A. Patterson: “Te-Wan-Ka”

Described as “the only female Humo-artiste,” Kate Patterson toured from the late 1890s to 1913 as “Te-Wan-Ka, the Indian Elocutionist,” although she was African American. Also a musician, Patterson recited literary works in New York, Asbury Park, and south to Virginia. Her photo is from a 1901 national survey of prominent black cultural leaders.

Born in 1867 in Princeton as Catherine A. Scudder, Kate trained with Stephen G. Peabody, a retired Princeton University Professor of Elocution. In 1882, she married Edward Davis, with whom she had four daughters by 1888. Kate then wed black journalist W. Frank Patterson of Belmar, publisher of *W. Frank Patterson’s Weekly*, edited by Kate in 1899. In 1900, her son-in-law slashed them, severely injuring Kate’s right hand and blinding Frank in one eye. Frank became manager in 1903 of Lyric Hall & Garden, Springwood Avenue, Asbury Park, described on its letterhead as “the largest Afro-American Amusement Resort in America.” Kate performed there and served as its treasurer.

Kate’s popular repertoire, also performed by many other elocutionists, included “The Chariot Race” from *Ben Hur*; Owen Meredith’s poem “Aux Italiens,” in which the speaker, accompanied by music, recalls his first love while watching Verdi’s *Il Trovatore*; “How Ruby Played” concerning pianist Anton Rubinstein; and “Zingarella,” about a dark Spanish gypsy girl who fights a lion. Probably only for black spectators, she did the melodramatic “Pilot’s Story,” about a master who sells his mulatto lover to a gambler. In churches, she alternated on the program with Fowler’s Jubilee Singers. Kate Patterson died in 1935 and was buried in White Ridge Cemetery, Eatontown. GDS

“Coming South!” *Richmond [Virginia] Planet*, April 17, 1897, 4.

“Concert.” *Woodbury [New Jersey] Daily Times*, January 10, 1899, 3.

Kimber, Marian Wilson. *The Elocutionists: Women, Music, and the Spoken Word*. Urbana, Chicago & Springfield, IL: University of Illinois Press, 2017.

Saretzky, Gary D., Curator. *Windows to the Past: Forty Documents and Photographs from the Monmouth County Archives*. [Freehold]: Monmouth County, 2012. [Lyric Hall and Garden, 68-69.]

“Te-Wan-Ka....” *Asbury Park Press*, November 8, 1913, 2.

“...Tewanka, the noted leader, will recite ‘Rock of Ages’....” *Camden Daily Courier*, February 25, 1899, 1.

“Wields a Razor.” *Monmouth Inquirer*, August 1, 1900, 1.



“TE-WAN-KA.”
(Mme. Kate A. Davis Patterson.)



Top, Helen C. Phillips from dust jacket of her book, *Red Bank on the Navesink*. Red Bank, New Jersey: Caesarea Press, 1977. Above, Fort Monmouth Traditions Committee. Left to right: Major Glenn S. Steward, J.P. Hoffman, Lt. Col. Melvyn W. Fuller, Lt. Col. Ted J. Palik, Col. R.I. Ulans, Col. Raymond H. Bates, Chairman; Col. Murray A. Little, former Chairman; Col. Leonard Drazee, Col. Robert C. Barthle, Col. Walter C. Ellis (United States Army, Ret.), James A. McClung, William M. Myers, and Miss Helen C. Phillips, Secretary, September 14, 1962. Courtesy U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Historical Office, as is Phillips at Fort Monmouth, opposite.

Helen C. Phillips: Historian

A local historian recognized in *The World Who's Who of Women* and the *Dictionary of International Biography*, Helen C. Phillips was born c.1904 in Bridgeton, New Jersey. She soon moved with her family to 146 Maple Avenue in Red Bank, where she would live for much of the rest of her life—and where her love affair with Monmouth County began!

Phillips attended Star of the Sea Academy in Long Branch before earning a bachelor's degree in education from the College of St. Elizabeth in 1923 and an M.A. from Columbia in 1944. Later, she received certificates from Harvard and Oxford universities, and an honorary doctorate from the College of St. Elizabeth. The last was awarded in appreciation for her donation of 1,000 rare books and 600 rare maps and atlases, valued at \$250,000 in 1969.

Early in her career, Phillips held numerous teaching and supervisory positions in schools in Italy and throughout New Jersey, including Rumson. Phillips edited the 360-page *History of Rumson* (1944), written substantially by her 22 high school History and Civics students. In 1952, she became chief of the Museum and Historical Office at Fort Monmouth. She was promoted in 1954 to founding director, U.S. Army Signal Corps Museum at Fort Monmouth. It was, at the time, considered the largest communications museum in America. She served in that capacity until 1967.

Among other publications, Phillips authored *Fort Monmouth: History and Place Names* (1954), *U.S. Army Signal Center and School: 1919-1967* (1967), and *Red Bank on the Navesink* (1977). A member of many professional organizations, Phillips died in 1981 at 77 years of age. MZ



“College of St. Elizabeth Gets Miss Phillips’ Gift from Pope,” *Daily Register* (Red Bank), April 25, 1968, 14.

“Dr. Helen Phillips Hit by Car; Critical.” *Red Bank Register*, November 1, 1974, 3.

Helen C. Phillips biography file, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Historical Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

“Helen C. Phillips; ex-history teacher.” [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, May 24, 1981, A4.

Historical Committee. *History of Rumson, 1665-1944*. Asbury Park, New Jersey: Schuyler Press, 1944.

“Material Sought by Historical Branch.” *The Monmouth Message* (Fort Monmouth), April 28, 1953, 5.



Left, Dorothy Toland by Bruno of Hollywood, 1940s. Below, Dorothy Pons holding award from Dance Masters of America in front of her home and studio, 201 E. Bergen Street, Red Bank, August 30, 1983. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives. 1983-08-180RBR. Photograph by Kenneth F. Irby, variant published September 13, 1983. Bottom, same source, in preparation for a dance concert at the Monmouth Arts Center, Pons dances with students, February 1, 1983. 1983-02-005RBR. Photograph by Carl Forino, published February 6, 1983.

Opposite, ad in the *Red Bank Register*, December 23, 1948, 11. Monmouth County Archives.



Dorothy Toland Pons: Dance Instructor

The musically gifted Dorothy Peaslack first danced professionally at the age of six. She was born in 1922 in Washington, DC, where her father was leader of the U.S. Army Band. Dorothy performed clarinet solos with his band when she was eight. She also played piano and flute, but it was dancing that would become her lifelong passion. At her Red Bank dance studio, Dorothy trained aspiring performers for over forty years.

In 1943, Dorothy married Army officer John Toland in Florida. Soon after WWII, John worked for Special Services as director of entertainment at Fort Monmouth and Dorothy appeared in his shows. The couple and their two young daughters settled in Red Bank. In 1948, they opened a studio in their home, seen here, at 201 East Bergen Place. Dorothy offered classes in ballet, toe, tap, and acrobatics while John taught dramatic arts and managed the business. For a while they operated a second studio in Asbury Park. The couple divorced but Dorothy continued to teach dancing. John devoted more time to writing and achieved fame as a best-selling historian who won the Pulitzer Prize in 1971 for *The Rising Sun*. In 1966, Dorothy married Don Carlos Pons, a dancer from Long Beach, New York, who opened a jewelry and clock shop in Fair Haven.

Over decades, Pons instructed countless local children and choreographed spectacular recitals. She also taught dance at Brookdale Community College in the 1970s-1980s and was prominent in Dance Masters of America. Glamorous even in her later years, Pons died after a brief illness at the age of ninety-five. KLS

Clark, Mary Christian, Marketing Manager (retired), Brookdale Community College, and former Pons student, email correspondence to Karen L. Schnitzspahn, January 2019.

“Dorothy Pons [1922-2018].” [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, June 9, 2018, A8.

“Dorothy Toland Pons Gets into the Act.” *Red Bank Register*, February 6, 1983, B10.

Jacobson, Carol, “Dorothy Toland Pons: She Keeps Step with the Times.” *Red Bank Register*, March 19, 1973, 8.

“Mrs. Toland Married in Red Bank.” *Red Bank Register*, July 22, 1966, 9.

“Pons Cited by Dancers.” *Red Bank Register*, September 13, 1983, B5.

“Wishing One and All a Merry Christmas [Dorothy Toland ad].” *Red Bank Register*, December 23, 1948, 11.

Wishing One and All
A MERRY CHRISTMAS

ORIGINAL Dance Routines

...for both...
professional and
student dancers

created by
Dorothy Toland

ROSE FURIATO
Camera Study
By Lorstan

Private and Classes
Children from three up.

TAP...TOE
ACROBATIC
BALLET
INTERPRETATIVE
...DANCING...

201 E. BERGEN PL. Phone R. B. 6-0570-J
Please Call After January 2nd



Left, Priscilla B. Ransohoff, Ph.D., courtesy U.S. Army CECOM Historical Office. Below and opposite, photographs from the *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives.

Below, Ransohoff with Arthur Z. Kamin, former editor of the *Register*, receiving Angel Awards from the Monmouth Center for Vocational Rehabilitation, of which Ransohoff was a founder, on April 16, 1985. 1985-04-088RBR (detail of photo by Carl Andrews). Story published in the *Register*, April 24, 1985, 11A.

Opposite, Ransohoff on July 7, 1975, unpublished. 1975-07-028RBR.



Priscilla Ransohoff: Equal Employment Opportunity Advocate

Widely respected for her efforts to promote women's equality in the workplace, Priscilla Burnett (1912-1992) was the daughter of a U.S. Steel vice-president and enjoyed a privileged childhood in Pittsburgh. After attending private schools, she studied physical therapy at Simmons College (now University) in Boston before earning a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh in 1940. Burnett taught at the University of Pittsburgh until coming to Fort Monmouth during World War II. She began her government career teaching elementary electricity. She planned to return to Pittsburgh after the war, but met Dr. Nicholas Ransohoff at Monmouth Memorial Hospital in Long Branch, married, and settled there. After his death in 1951 at the age of 55, Priscilla earned both a master's degree and doctorate in education administration and psychology from Columbia University. She started her own management consulting firm and taught part-time.

After retiring from consulting, Ransohoff returned to Fort Monmouth in 1964 and held numerous positions, including education advisor to the Deputy for Laboratories, U.S. Army Electronics Command and, concurrently, taught at Brookdale Community and Ocean County colleges. A champion of equality in the federal workplace, Ransohoff received the Department of the Army's Equal Employment Opportunity Award and was the first recipient of the Army Materiel Command Action Award for "promoting the goals of the AMC toward the advancement of equal employment opportunity." She founded the Molly Pitcher Chapter of the International Toastmistress Clubs and established the Federally Employed Women's (FEW) program at Fort Monmouth. MZ

Dr. Priscilla Ransohoff biography file, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Historical Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

"Dr. Ransohoff Asked to Serve on Women's Committee Meeting." *The Monmouth Message*, February 9, 1977, 10.

"Dr. Ransohoff Named as EEO Representative." *The Monmouth Message*, September 26, 1968, 1.

Duff, Marilyn. "Zonta Club Honors Achiever." *Red Bank Register*, March 30, 1990, 12.

"Federally Employed Women Chapter Formed at Fort." *The Monmouth Message*, December 4, 1969, 1.



Caroline Gallup Reed: Founder of MCHA

Caroline Gallup Reed, born on August 5, 1821 in Berne, Albany County, New York, founded Mrs. Sylvanus Reed's Boarding and Day School for Young Ladies in 1864. The school, located at 6-8 East 53rd Street, New York, elevated her to a high rank in private education. Profitable operation enabled Reed to amass considerable personal wealth. At Reed's retirement in 1894, she turned the school over to a group of nuns affiliated with the Church of England.

Summering in Middletown Township, Reed linked her New York educational and Monmouth charitable ventures. The Reed Alumnae League sponsored the Chapel Hill Fresh Air Mission which operated the Eunice Home that provided summer vacations for needy urban children. Later Reed became the driving force for the organization of the Monmouth County Historical Association (MCHA). She also built "Reedmont," a well-preserved family compound located in Locust, on the Navesink River and its overlooking hills.

The Association was established at her home, largely by a group of friends and neighbors from Locust and Rumson Neck, on October 12, 1898, shortly before Reed's planned trip to China.

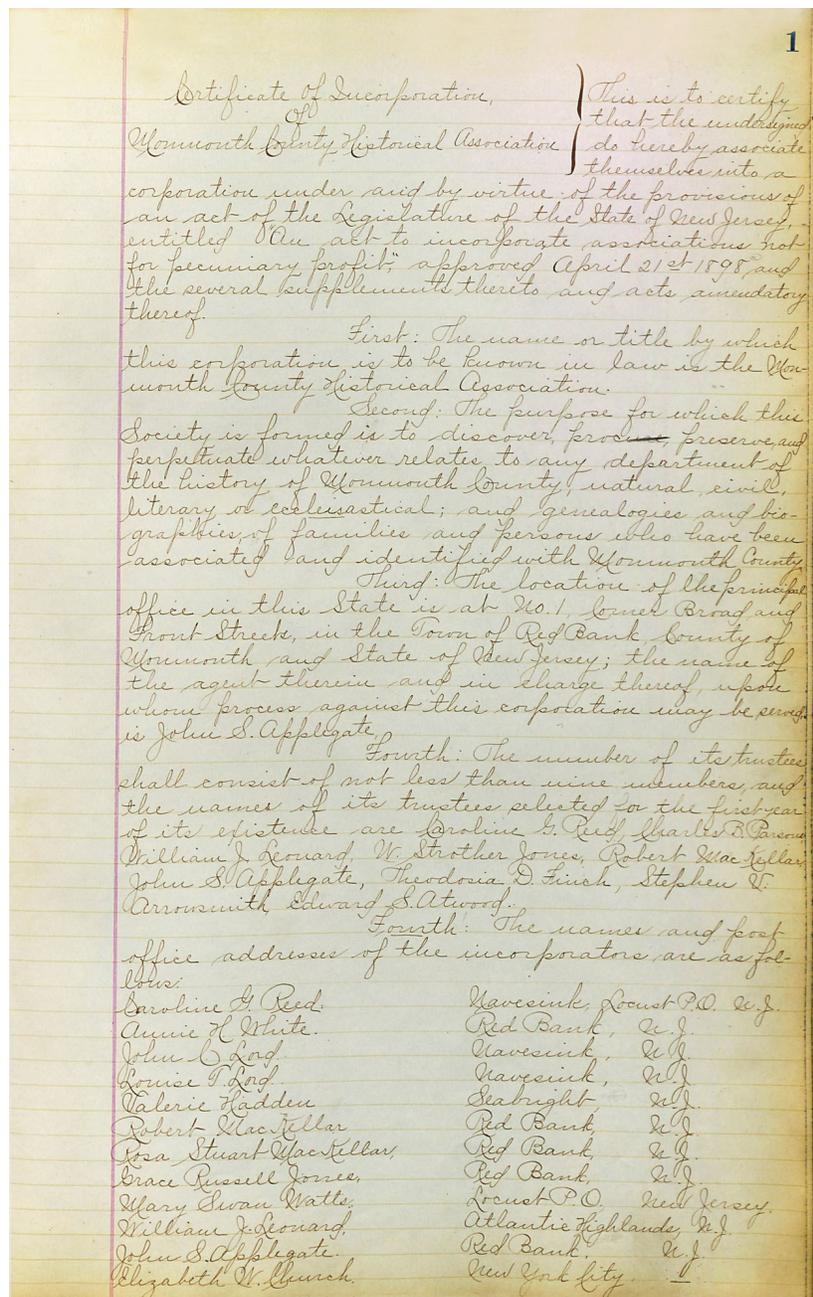
The roll of charter members, led by Reed, was kept open for some time to attract wide support. Their first meeting as a formally incorporated society was held on June 29, 1899, in Red Bank. The Association leased space there for its first home, although plans announced in 1919 to build a permanent home in Red Bank were unfulfilled. Reed died in 1914; her legacy attained permanence with the 1931 opening of MCHA headquarters at 70 Court Street, Freehold. RG

Leonard, William J. "Organization of Historical Association," et al. *Red Bank Register*, November 25, December 2, 9, and 30, 1937.

"Sisters of the Church." *Los Angeles Times*, July 1, 1894, 18.

"\$21,000 Trust Turned Over to Fresh Air Fund." *New York Herald-Tribune*, August 27, 1946, 19.

Reed, Sylvanus A. *The Life of Caroline Gallup Reed*. New York: privately printed, 1931.





Ann Reimers photographs, all courtesy of her daughter, Judy Voehle. Above right, playing a Hammond organ. Below, with The Stardusters. Opposite, with the Wonder Bar Band.



Ahna Loehr Tesche Parker Reimers: Pianist

"I fell in love with the piano as a child."

At an early age, Ahna (Ann) Loehr of Elizabeth, New Jersey, learned to play the piano from her mother, who was self-taught and could play by ear. As a teen, Ahna continued her training under concert pianist Fritz Reimer. She married Carl Tesche in 1939 and relocated to Monmouth County, where she joined Tesche's band, The Stardusters. With Carl on bass, Ahna on piano, Joe Fontana on guitar, and all three doing vocals, the Stardusters trio, seen here, played nightly in the Anchor Room at the Lake Park Hotel in Asbury Park. Local radio station WJLK aired their live performances every Saturday night. The Stardusters also played clubs throughout New Jersey and New York.

In the 1960's, Carl and Ann owned and operated the Wonder Bar on Ocean Avenue (where The Unknowns, formerly featuring lead singer and current Monmouth County Archives employee Frank DiSpigna, still perform). Ann played the Hammond organ for singalongs. They booked local talents and played music from Roaring '20s, Gay '90s, Dixieland jazz, ragtime banjo, barbershop quartets, and folk rock. For about 13 years during the off seasons, Carl and Ann entertained passengers aboard a Greek cruise ship until Carl passed in 1976.

Ahna played keyboard all her life and survived three husbands. In her later years, she volunteered to play the piano in the atrium at a hospital in Brick, Ocean County. There, Ahna played mild, soothing songs and commented, "I always do 'Stardust,' it's such a beautiful tune." She died at age 97 in 2013. GJ

"Ahna Loehr Tesche Parker Reimers." [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, August 7, 2013, A12.

Picard, Joseph. "Volunteer's piano melodies sweeten visits to hospital." *Asbury Park Press*, October 2, 2005, C1.





Restelle Richardson Revey and her husband Johnson Revey. Above, courtesy Neptune Public Library and opposite, Monmouth County Historical Association.

Restelle Richardson Revey: Sand Hill Indian Community Activist

Restelle Richardson Revey and her husband Johnson Revey were described as “prominent and public-spirited people of the community who had an interest in the improvement of community life.” Restelle’s grandson, Jim “Lone Bear” Revey, remembered his grandmother as an expert seamstress and beading craftsperson, making traditional American Indian articles. She encouraged awareness of her Indian heritage, and always valued a community way of life.

Restelle’s mother Elizabeth was of Delaware Indian and Dutch descent; Restelle’s father, Isaac R. Richardson, descended from the Cherokees and Delawares. Restelle was the eighth child of the marriage, born in 1866 or 1867 near Eatontown. The Revey and Richardson families were part of the Sand Hill band of Indians of Monmouth County.

In 1900, a few years after her marriage, Mrs. Revey purchased a large house at 1115 Springwood Avenue in Asbury Park, where she offered lodging near the Lyric Hall & Garden, the large African American entertainment center. Also known as Aunt Del, she hosted a pancake breakfast for a hundred guests to raise funds to provide coal for the Saint Augustine Episcopal Church.

In 1927, Restelle and her husband were among the founding directors of the Clio Welfare & Community Centre in Harlem, founded for the betterment of children. When it filed for incorporation, Restelle was listed as secretary and Johnson as vice president. At the time, they lived nearby at 278 West 127th Street, where they held rummage sales to raise funds. The Reveys used the funds to supply Christmas gifts and free boat rides to the local children.

After an eventful life of community service, Restelle Revey died in 1939 in New York. GJ

Garland, Claire and Carole Clarke (Restelle Revey’s great-granddaughters), Email correspondence to George Joynson, 2019.

“Gave Pancake Sociable.” *Asbury Park Press*, November 17, 1910, 2.

Goodrich, Margaret T. and Sheila Cowing. “Restelle Elizabeth Richardson Revey, 1866-1939.” *Past and Promise Lives of New Jersey Women*. The Women’s Project of New Jersey, Inc. Metuchen, New Jersey and London: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 1990, 187.

“New Community Center to Be Opened In Harlem.” *New York Age*, December 24, 1927, 10.



Right, Louise Rosskam at home in Roosevelt with her Rolleiflex, 2000, by Gary D. Saretzky. [Library System: Oral History Collection](#), Monmouth County Archives. Below left, Edwin Rosskam, Edwin and Louise Rosskam examining photographic print in tray, c.1938. Library of Congress. Below right, Louise Rosskam, barn, at abandoned farm, barn, Gordon Road between Nurko Road and Perrineville Road, 1980s. Louise Rosskam Collection, Monmouth County Archives. Opposite, front and back covers of Katzman and Brannan's monograph on Rosskam (see bibliography on next page).



Louise Rosskam: Documentary Photographer (1910-2003)

Louise Rosskam, along with her husband Edwin, helped shape the documentary aesthetic in photography. Born in 1910, Louise Rosenbaum grew up in Philadelphia in a large, brainy, high achieving, and prosperous family. Her Hungarian father owned a Jewish immigrant bank and founded the Rodeph Shalom synagogue. Louise majored in biology at the University of Pennsylvania, then worked as a genetics researcher. In 1936, she married Philadelphiaian Edwin Rosskam, a writer, painter, and photographer. They published documentary photography books on San Francisco and Washington, DC, the latter where in 1939, Edwin was hired by Roy Stryker at the Farm Security Administration (FSA). Stryker also employed Ben Shahn, Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, and other highly regarded photographers. The Library of Congress' FSA file now contains photos by both Rosskams. Meanwhile, Louise became a free-lance photographer. When Stryker left for Standard Oil in 1943 to develop another major photo archive, he hired her and Edwin. They photographed customs; recreational activities; social institutions such as family, government, social and religious organizations; and work—working methods, the interaction of workers with each other and employers, and the physical structure of work places. Their travels led to their acclaimed *Towboat River* (1947), about towboat workers on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. The couple then spent more than five years at the Puerto Rico Office of Information, developing an FSA-type file, before settling permanently in Roosevelt, Monmouth County, in 1953, where they raised their two daughters. In the 1980s, Louise photographed the decaying farm buildings and encroaching housing developments threatening the rural character of Monmouth and nearby counties. A major monograph accompanied her retrospective at American University in 2011. GDS

Fisher, Andrea. *Let Us Now Praise Famous Women: Women Photographers for the U.S. Government, 1935 to 1944*. London & New York: Pandora Press, 1987.

Katzman, Laura and Beverly W. Brannan. *Re-Viewing Documentary: The Photographic Life of Louise Rosskam*. Washington, DC: American University, 2011. Revised edition, 2014. Distributed by Penn State University Press.

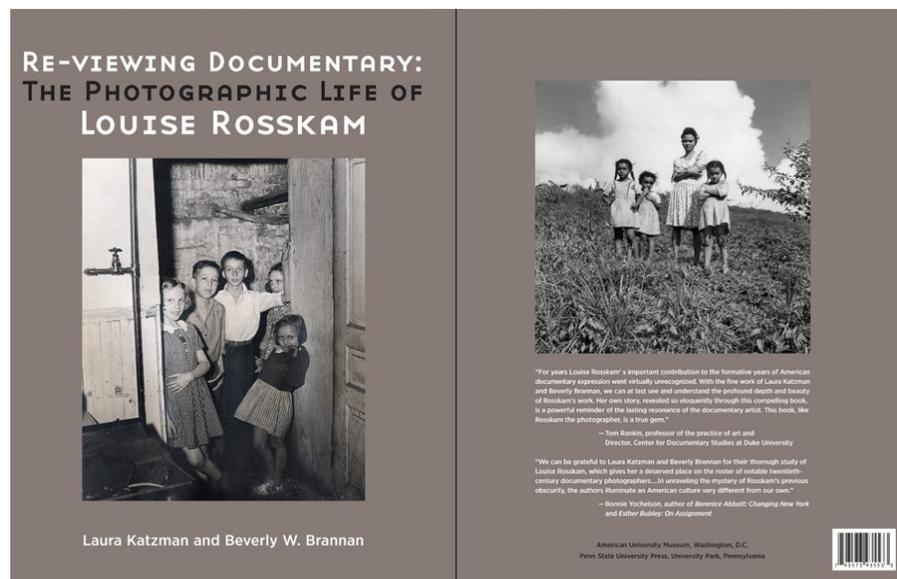
Louise Rosskam Collection, 1980s-2003. [Guide](#). Monmouth County Archives.

Rosskam, Louise. [Oral History Interview](#), March 24, 2000, by Gary D. Saretzky, for *Remembering the Twentieth Century: An Oral History of Monmouth County*. Monmouth County Library.

Saretzky, Gary D. "Bliss on the Old Miss: The Rosskams and *Towboat River*." *The Photo Review*, 24:1 & 2 (Winter/Spring 2001), 6-16, 33-34.

Saretzky, Gary D. "Louise Rosskam: Documentary Photographer," [New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal](#), 5:2 (Summer 2019).

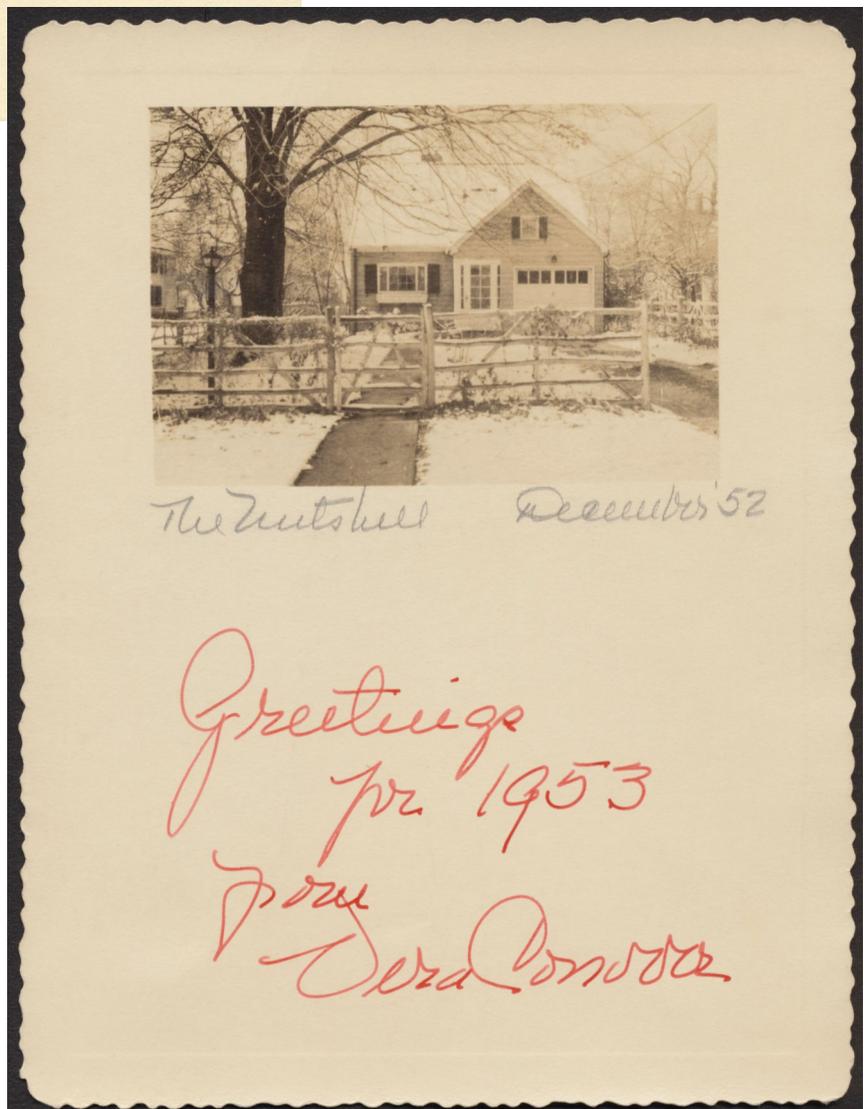
Saretzky, Gary D. "New Jersey in Transition: Louise Rosskam's Barn Photographs." *New Jersey History*, 12:1-4 (2003), 83-92.





Left, Keyport's Therese Walling Seabrook (1821-1899), c.1880. Below, "The Nutshell," home of Therese's granddaughter, Vera Conover (1896-1977), December 1952. Both, [Elsalyn Palmisano Women's History Papers](#), Monmouth County Archives.

Opposite, Annie Seabrook Conover (1852-1943) and daughter Vera Conover, c.1930. Courtesy, Keyport Historical Society.



The Seabrook Women: Three Generations of Public Spirit

Keyport still benefits from the efforts of Therese Walling Seabrook, Annie Seabrook Conover, and Vera Conover, three generations descended from Penelope Stout that helped establish the town and several enduring organizations. Therese Walling (1821-1899) came to Keyport in 1832 with her parents, Catherine (Aumack) and Leonard Walling, two years after the town's founding. Therese (portrait shown here), became the unofficial historian of Keyport. At still-extant Seabrook Hill, the home she shared with husband Henry H. Seabrook, at 162 West Front Street, she hosted many meetings. Therese was the Honorary President of the Monmouth County Suffrage Society, a founder of the Keyport Chapter, Women's Christian Temperance Union, and an active member of the Keyport Baptist Church and its various charitable groups. She was a delegate to both the National W.C.T.U. Convention and the National Woman Suffrage Association. Walling Terrace and Therese Avenue in Keyport are named for her.

Therese's daughter, Annie Seabrook Conover (1852-1943) attended Freehold Young Ladies Seminary and married William L. Conover in 1877. In 1892, she co-founded the Keyport Literary Club, which still exists. She was active in the Keyport Lyceum, which became the Keyport Public Library. Annie organized the Ladies Aid Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church, and was an active member of the Keyport W.C.T.U. and the New Jersey Federation of Women's Clubs. Her house remains at 141 Main Street.

Keyport town historian Vera Conover (1896-1977), seen here with her mother Annie, founded the Keyport Historical Society. She worked as recording secretary for the Keyport Chamber of Commerce and the Keyport Businessman's Association. In 1976, she revealed the new Bicentennial Monument in Fireman's Park. Vera supported the Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church and the Keyport Literary Society. Her house, The Nutshell, is at 138 Main Street. MH

Brown, Josephine A. "Keyport A Century Old: Mrs. Therese Walling Seabrook." *Matawan Journal*, December 5, 1930, 4.

Kanarkowski, Ed. "Keyport Historian Pulls Together the Forgotten Facts of Bygone Days." *Red Bank Register*, April 16, 1976, 9.

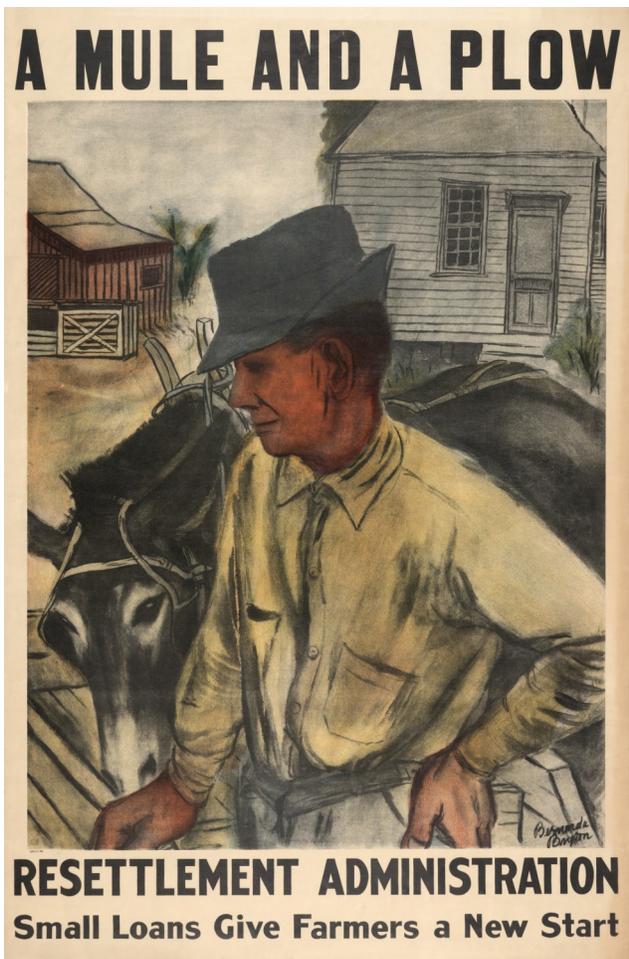
"Mrs. Conover is Dead at 91." *Asbury Park Press*, December 30, 1943, 1.

"Obituary: Mrs. Therese W. Seabrook." *Keyport Weekly*, October 14, 1899, 3.





Above, Ben and Bernarda Shahn, courtesy Jean (Mrs. Jonathan) Shahn. Right, Bernarda Shahn, c.1990, by Louis H. Draper, courtesy Nell Winston Draper, Louis H. Draper Preservation Trust.



Above, Bernarda Shahn, "A mule and a plow-- Resettlement Administration--Small loans give farmers a new start." [Poster, 1935-1937. Printed 1945.]

Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division. [Digital ID ppmsca.05986](https://www.loc.gov/rr/print/pubs/ppmsca.05986/).

Bernarda Bryson Shahn: Artist and Writer (1903-2004)

Born in Ohio, Bernarda Bryson grew up with what she called “vocational schizophrenia”—equal affinities for writing and book illustration, encouraged by her intellectually stimulating parents. Her father edited the *Athens Morning Journal*; her mother was a university Latin professor. Bernarda studied history, etching, and lithography, then worked as an art teacher and authored an art column for the *Ohio State Journal*. For the latter, she penned a long piece about the painter Ben Shahn, after seeing his painting of Sacco and Vanzetti. She then visited New York to interview muralist Diego Rivera, who introduced her to Shahn. Bernarda soon decided to move to the metropolis, where she and Ben became life partners and sometimes worked together. They married shortly before Ben died in 1969.

During the Great Depression, for the New Deal’s Resettlement Administration (RA), Ben did both painting and photography and Bernarda made lithographs, such as the illustrated poster. One of the RA model communities was Jersey Homesteads in Monmouth County; Ben, assisted by Bernarda, painted the famous large fresco that still graces its elementary school. They moved to the town, renamed Roosevelt in November 1945 after the President’s death, and attracted other artists and photographers, including the Rosskams, to settle there.

While Bernarda and Ben raised their three children, she produced magazine illustrations, and wrote and/or illustrated children’s books, including *The Sun Is a Golden Earring* (1962) and *Gilgamesh* (1967). She also produced the monograph, *Ben Shahn, 1898-1969* (1972). Vigorous throughout her nineties, Bernarda became highly respected for her oil paintings, now in the Whitney Museum of Art and other prestigious institutions. Photographer Lou Draper made Bernarda’s somber portrait, seen here, for his New Jersey Artists series. GDS

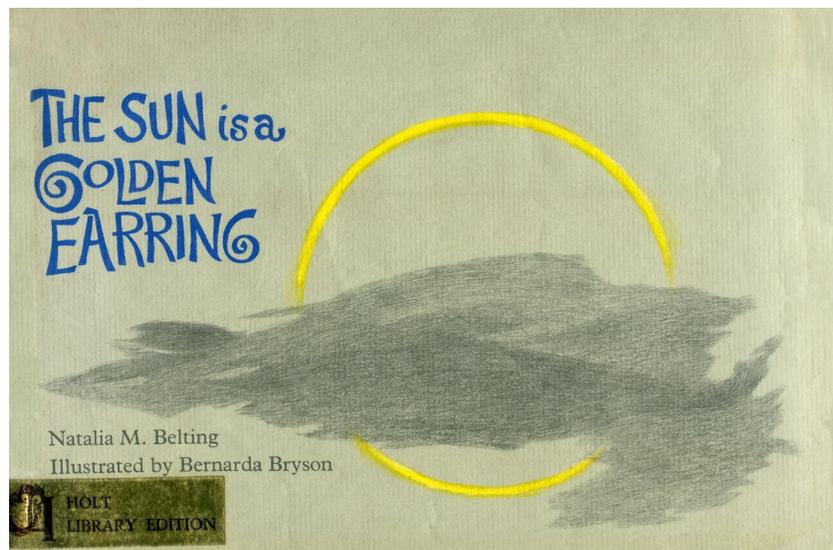
Fox, Margalit. “Bernarda Bryson Shahn, Painter, Dies at 101.” *New York Times*, December 16, 2004, A41.

O’Reilly, Margaret, ed. *Louis H. Draper: Selected Photographs*. West Windsor, New Jersey: Booksmart Studio & Mercer County Community College, 2015. [After Draper’s death in 2002, Bernarda Shahn donated one of her large paintings to a fundraiser for the printing of this book, which includes her portrait, and to establish a scholarship at MCCC.]

“Shahn Murals in Bronx Post Office to Be Saved.” [December 2013 Update](#). New York Landmarks Conservancy. [Concerns 13 murals by Ben and Bernarda Shahn at the Bronx General Post Office. Although the building was sold, the murals were preserved after being given New York City Landmark status.]

[“Oral History Interview with Bernarda Bryson Shahn, 1983, April 29.”](#) Smithsonian Archives of American Art.

Right, cover of Natalia M. Belting, *The Sun Is a Golden Earring*, illustrated by Bernarda Shahn. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1962.



In Witness whereof we have hereunto set
our hands & seals the six & twentieth day of February
in the Year of our Lord God One Thousand Six Hundred
Seventy Nine Eighty. / His Mark

Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the presence of us - } Richard X Stout (seal)
for Mark
Penelope X Stout (seal)

Above, Richard Stout, Sr., and wife Penelope to Thomas Snawsell, Sr. Deed, October 7, 1684. Book B, 6. ABC Book, Part 3, Folder 200. [Deed Books](#), Monmouth County Archives.

Opposite, commemorative Penelope Stout coin, 1970s, designed by Don de Lue. Public domain image. The recto (left), depicts the scene of Penelope's rescue by an old Indian chief after surviving a shipwreck and the ensuing attack on the beach by the indigenous inhabitants, after being abandoned by their fellow shipmates. The verso depicts Penelope, holding her child, after she was brought to Fort Amsterdam and returned to Monmouth with her second husband Richard Stout. Here the old chief warns Penelope and Richard about a planned attack.

Penelope Stout: First Lady of Middletown

Regardless of how much of Penelope Stout's fascinating story is myth, Penelope has become Monmouth County's most renowned early European woman settler. Her saga, handed down by her many descendants, was first published in 1765. Although several versions have since emerged, it has been told and retold for nearly 400 years—in novels, on commemorative coins, in movies, blogs, and every book on the history of Monmouth County.

According to the 1765 account, in about 1620, a young, Dutch-born Penelope (née Vanprincis) and her first husband were aboard a ship that wrecked on Sandy Hook. Fearing hostile natives, most survivors fled to New Amsterdam. Penelope stayed behind with her husband, who was too weak to travel. The local "Indians" killed him and brutally attacked Penelope, leaving her for dead. Penelope suffered a fractured skull, mangled arm, and a severe abdominal wound. Holding her entrails in place, she hid in a tree stump for several days, surviving on its "excrescence," until an elderly tribesman carried her to his wigwam and helped her recover. Months later, he made a present of Penelope to her countrymen in New Amsterdam, expecting ten times her value in return. She soon married an Englishman, Richard Stout, and they settled in Monmouth, where she raised ten children and lived to be 110 years old; by then she had hundreds of descendants.

There is no doubt "the First Lady of Middletown" existed, for her name, seen here, appears in a Monmouth County Clerk deed book in 1684. In fact, Penelope Stout may have been the first woman to own land in Monmouth County. GJ

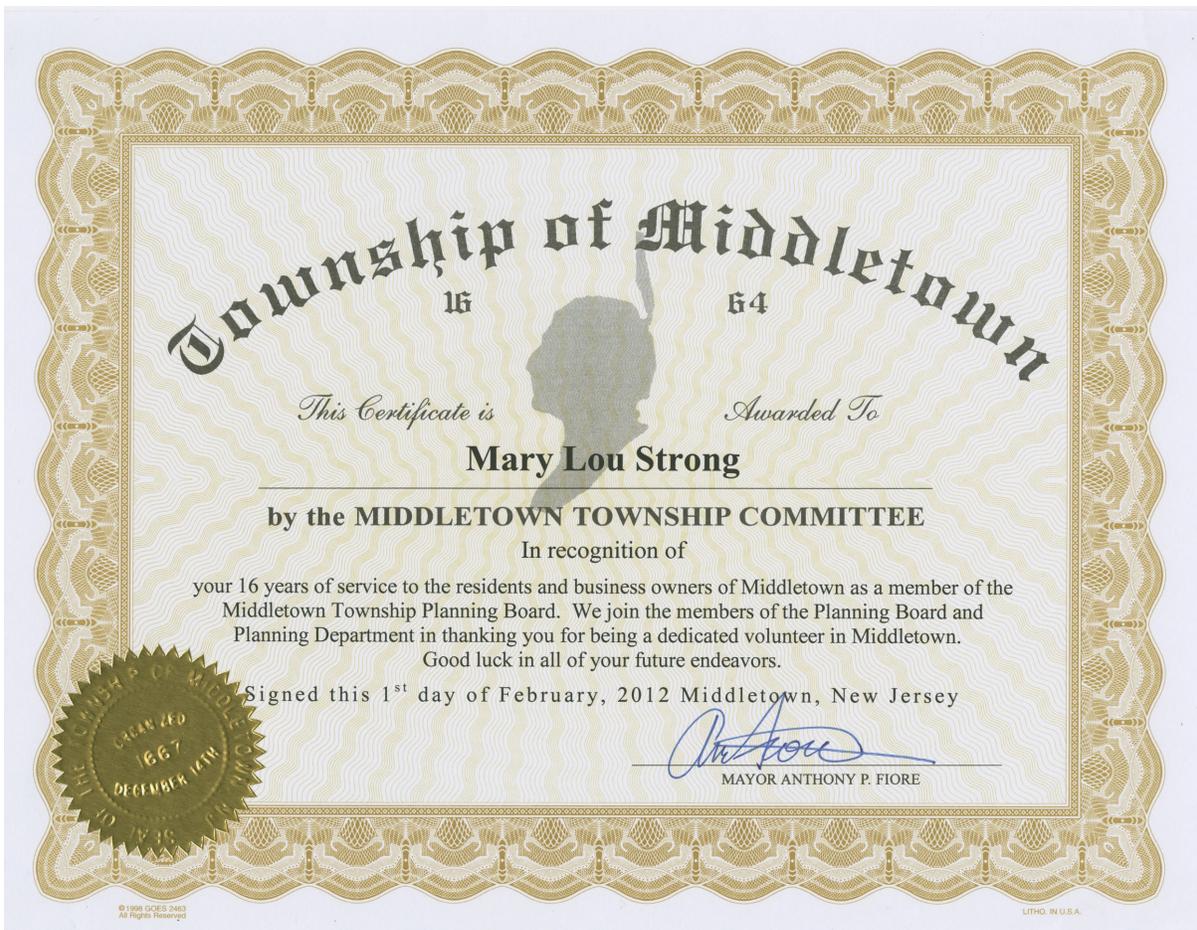
Benedict, David. *A General History of the Baptist Denomination in America, and Other Parts of the World*. Boston: Manning & Loring, 1813. [Includes variant of Penelope Stout story.]

Smith, Samuel. *The History of the Colony of Nova-Caesaria, or New Jersey: containing, an account of its first settlement, progressive improvements, the original and present constitution, and other events, to the year 1721. With some particulars since; and a short view of its present state*. Burlington, New Jersey: James Parker, 1765. [Web](#).





Above, Mary Lou Strong at the All Saints Memorial Church shed restoration, with builder Doug Jones on ladder, retired warden Kenneth Meineri (left) and sexton Frank L. Pape, by Don Lordi, June 1, 1984. *Red Bank Register* Negative Collection, Monmouth County Archives. 1984-06-002aRBR. Published in the *Register* June 11, 1984, B6. Below, a certificate awarded to Mary Lou Strong by the Township of Middletown in 2012. Monmouth County Historical Association.



Mary Lou Strong: Historic Preservation Advocate

Mary Louise Lyon, born on November 20, 1930, in Newton, Massachusetts, honed her aesthetic sensibilities as an art history major at Wellesley College. After moving to Monmouth County with husband George H. Strong in 1956, she became enamored of the county's history and became an ardent advocate for preservation of its built environment.

Mrs. Strong filled numerous offices and positions in the history and preservation fields that included the presidency of the Monmouth County Historical Association (MCHA). She was also active with Preservation New Jersey, chaired the Middletown Landmarks Commission, and was vice-chair of the Monmouth County Historical Commission. Her Middletown research supported creation of the Locust Historic District and other township historic places. An avid athlete, Strong instigated the preservation of the Seabright Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club and its designation as a National Historic Landmark.

The Strongs lived in an ambitious preservation project. Having bought a disassembled c.1720 toll and farm house that stood until 1933 in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, the clearly marked pieces were shipped to Locust, Middletown, and reassembled on a hill overlooking the Navesink River. In a home that exuded historical character, this convivial hostess led many a discussion of the era's vital issues.

Strong's articles and letters were invariably intelligent, informed, articulate, and eloquent expressions on the vitality and necessity of preservation. Her effective advocacy made her the conscience of building conservation of her generation. Strong died on August 29, 2017. RG

Brown, James S., "260-Year-Old Massachusetts Saltbox Is Now Rising Above Navesink River." *Asbury Park Press*, December 3, 1962, 13.

Gabrielan, Randall. Personal recollections of Mary Lou Strong.

"Mrs. George H. Strong, President." Clipping, *Monmouth County Historical Association Newsletter*, c.1982. [Randall Gabrielan Collection.]

Strong Family. "Mary Louise Lyon Strong (Mary Lou)." Memorial Service Biography, also printed in the *Asbury Park Press*, September 3, 2017, A19.

Right, Monmouth County Historian George H. Moss, Jr., County Clerk M. Claire French, Clayton Award winner Mary Lou Strong, former County Clerk Jane G. Clayton, Freeholder Ted Narozanick, and Monmouth County Library Commission Chair Renee B. Swartz. Archives and History Day, October 17, 1998. Monmouth County Archives. 1998-10-006C.





Above, Mary Wooster (Mrs. William J.) Sutton, *Colorado Springs Gazette*, July 14, 1913, 3. Opposite, night view of the Sutton Building, 17 Broad Street, Red Bank, 2013, by Randall Gabrielan.

Mary Wooster Sutton: Attorney and Concert Pianist

Mary Munson, born in 1866 in Bridgeport, Connecticut, came to Red Bank to teach and enjoyed a career as a concert pianist prior to becoming the first woman with a substantial law practice in Monmouth County and an activist with numerous groups.

Munson no doubt met her husband, long-time school board member William J. Sutton, at the school where she began teaching in the 1890s; they married in 1894. She began to read law in 1909, then enrolled in the New York University School of Law where she received L.L.B and L.L.M. degrees in 1911 and 1912. After admittance to the bar as attorney in 1913, as the second woman in Monmouth County after Jessie Vanderveer (also covered in this exhibit), Sutton opened an office in the Sutton Building, 17 Broad Street, Red Bank. She was admitted as counsellor in 1916.

Sutton attracted press coverage for difficult cases in which she demonstrated resoluteness and resiliency. Her legal career encompassed three states, including Florida where she relocated temporarily after William died in 1921. Sutton's causes included the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Chautauqua Association, and the suffrage movement. In 1920, her electoral race for the Red Bank Council missed by a narrow margin.

After an accidental injury left her with a permanent disability, Sutton relocated to Connecticut c.1930 and practiced there. She retained local renown through her longest case: a stepson sued her for taking a life interest in her home, selling it, and reinvesting the proceeds in Connecticut.

Sutton continued her concert career and interest in Red Bank until her death in 1949. RG

Leonard, John William, ed. *Woman's Who's Who of America, 1914-15*. New York: American Commonwealth Company, 1914.

"Mary W. Sutton Dead; Attorney and Pianist, 83." *New York Herald Tribune*, December 4, 1949, 30.

"Victory for Mrs. Mary W. Sutton in Long Court Fight." *Red Bank Register*, April 8, 1937, 1.





A young and lovely Geraldine Livingston Thompson, approximately 1919.

Above, Geraldine Thompson c.1919, from *A Triangle of Land*, page 36 (see bibliography, next page). Below, Allenwood Hospital patients taking the sun. Health Care Facilities: [Allenwood Hospital](#), Box 4 (Photographs), Monmouth County Archives. Opposite, Brookdale, the Thompson mansion, 1906. Clifford W. Zink, [Discover History in the Parks: Brookdale Farm at Thompson Park](#). Monmouth County Parks System, 2016.



Geraldine Thompson: A Lifetime of Philanthropy

The Visiting Nurse Association. Thompson Park. Brookdale Community College. These are just a few of Geraldine Thompson's legacies. Born Geraldine Livingston Morgan in New York in 1872, she married Lewis Steenrod Thompson, Jr. in 1896 and moved to the Brookdale Farm mansion (shown here) in Lincroft. From there, she launched a virtually unmatched career of public service.

In 1912, she founded what would become the Monmouth County Organization for Social Services (MCOSS), serving the needs of families with health screenings, prenatal clinics, visiting nurses, and more. It soon became the largest nursing agency in the state and Thompson was its president for forty years. The headquarters for what is now called the Visiting Nurse Association of Central New Jersey was for many years in the Geraldine L. Thompson Building in Red Bank.

Both Thompsons and their daughter suffered from TB. In 1921, the couple helped found the Allenwood Tuberculosis Hospital, later named the Geraldine L. Thompson Medical Home.

Thompson was a staunch, lifelong Republican, although she was close friends with Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. She attended every Republican National Convention from 1920 to 1952. In 1923, Thompson was the first female on the Republican National Committee.

Thompson was the first woman appointed to a State Board in New Jersey, holding positions on the State Board of Charities and Corrections, the State Board of Control, and the Department of Institutions and Charities. These roles enabled her to gain the ear of important politicians to aid her causes.

After she passed in 1967, Thompson Park was created from her estate after she left it in her will to the people of Monmouth County for recreation purposes. Another part of her land, which she had previously gifted to her son, Lewis, became Brookdale Community College. MH

Freeman, Lucy. "Jersey Honor Paid to Mrs. Thompson: Gov. Driscoll Leads Tributes on Day of Welfare Pioneer Needling State 30 Years." *New York Times*, June 2, 1950, 26.

Henderson, Marguerite. "Mrs. Thompson's Spirit Lives in Her Many Gifts." *Asbury Park Press*, July 31, 1992, 10.

"Monmouth GOP Women Honor Mrs. Thompson for Service." *Asbury Park Press*, March 17, 1961, 24.

The Northern Monmouth County Branch of the American Association of University Women. *A Triangle of Land*. Lincroft, New Jersey: Brookdale Community College, 1978.



"If she can live
 To make some pale face brighter, or
 to give
 An added luster to some tear-dimmed
 eye,
 or e'en impart
 One throb of comfort to an aching
 heart,
 Or cheer some way-worn soul in
 passing by!
 If she can lend
 A strong hand to the fallen, or defend
 The right against a single envious
 strain
 Her life, though bare
 Perhaps of what seems dear and fair
 To us on earth, will not have been
 in vain.
 The purest joy,
 Most near to Heaven, far from
 earth's alloy
 Is bidding clouds give way to sun
 and shine.
 And 'twill be well
 If on that day of days, the angels tell
 Of her, 'She did her best for one of
 thine.' "



Above left, untitled poem by Dr. Upham in "Women in Medicine," *Asbury Park Press*, May 12, 1908, 8. Above right, portrait of Dr. Upham from Morris S. Daniels, *The Story of Ocean Grove Related in the Year of its Golden Jubilee 1869-1919*. New York and Cincinnati, 1919, 253.

Omnibus et Singulis Has Literas Lecturis.
 Salutem.
 Praeses Profesores Collegii Medicinæ Pennsylvaniaensis.
 Ad Foeminas In Arte Medica Instruendas.
 Instituti.
 Hac Membrana Ellam Prentiss Upham Pennsylvaniaensem Omnibus Studiis.
 ad gradum Doctoris Medicinæ rite et legitime spectantibus apud nos incubuisse Testamur; eamque coram
 professoribus examinatione comprobata **Doctorem in Arte Medendi** creavimus et constituimus;
 eique omnia jura, immunitates et privilegia ad illum gradum hic aut ubique gentium pertinentia dedimus et concessimus.
 In cuius rei majorem fidem hocce diploma, communi nostro sigillo munitum et chirographis nostris subscriptum, sit.
 testimonio.
 Datum in Aula Collegii Philadelphia. Die Undecimo Mensis Martii.
 Annoque Domini 1885.

I Morris Perot President.
 C. W. Pierce Secretary.
 Enoch Lewis Treasurer.

Rachel L. Bodley M.D. Prof. of Chem & Toxicol.
 Clara Marshall M.D. Prof. Mater. Medica & Therapeutics.
 Frances Emily White M.D. Prof. of Physiology & Hygiene.
 Anna C. Broomall M.D. Prof. of Obstetrics
 James B. Walker M.D. Prof. Princ. & Practice of Medicine.
 Hannah J. Crossdale M.D. Prof. of Gynaecology and Diseases of Children
 William H. Parish M.D. Prof. of Anatomy.
 William W. Keen M.D. Chirurg. Prof.

Dr. Ella Prentiss Upham: Pioneer Physician

Five years after graduating from Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, Ella Prentiss Upham, M.D., came to Asbury Park in 1890 and set up practice. Doctor Upham was Asbury Park's first female physician. She made her rounds by foot, bicycle, or horse and buggy, and for 40 years ministered to patients using homeopathic medicine from her residence at 305 Third Avenue.

Dr. Upham joined county and state medical societies and took an active role in local community, church, and school affairs. Often elected president of organizations, she led the Asbury Park Woman's Club and the Women's Suffrage Association of Monmouth County. At a lecture on "Adolescence" before the Young Women's Educational Association at the Asbury Park Library, Doctor Upham told her female audience that the future greatness of our nation depended on its mothers. There was no limit to human achievement, she said, and emphasized the need of intelligent guardianship of children. "Instruct your boys," she said, "that a strong, true man has perfect control of his emotions at all times."

At the 1908 annual meeting of the New Jersey State Homeopathic Medical Society in Princeton, Dr. Upham addressed the topic of women in medicine. Upham asserted that women entering the medical field were not disruptors, and that "... men and women should work together, supplementing each other in their profession, as in other positions in life." She closed her talk by reciting her poem, seen here. Doctor Upham died in her Asbury Park home at age 82 in 1933. GJ

"Ella Prentiss Upham, M.D." in Frank R. Holmes, ed. *History of Monmouth County, New Jersey, 1664-1920*. Vol. III. New York and Chicago: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1922, 210.

"Nation's Future Is with Mothers." *Asbury Park Press*, February 4, 1911, 1.

"Woman Physician, 82, Passes Away [obituary]." *Asbury Park Press*, November 6, 1933, 19.

"Women in Medicine." *Asbury Park Press*, May 12, 1908, 3, 8.

Right, Dr. Upham's residence, 305 3rd Avenue, Asbury Park, by George Joynson, December 2018. Opposite, copy of Upham's medical diploma, 1885, [Professional Licenses, 1832-1974](#), Box 1209, Monmouth County Archives.





Left, Jesse Vanderveer, passport photo, Ancestry.com. Below, ad, *Asbury Park Press*, January 22, 1903, 6.

Bottom, Oath of Jessie Vanderveer as Commissioner of Deeds, April 6, 1903. [Election Records](#), Commissioners of Deeds, 1849-1931, Oaths, Box 1, Monmouth County Archives.

JESSIE VANDERVEER.
Attorney-at-Law.
Appleby Building. Typewriting.

State of New Jersey, } ss
MONMOUTH COUNTY.

I, *Jessie Vanderveer*

do solemnly promise and swear that I will faithfully, impartially and justly perform all the duties of the office of a

Commissioner of Deeds

according to the best of my ability and understanding, so help me God.

Jessie Vanderveer

Sworn and subscribed before me
this *6th* day of *April*
A. D., 190*3*

Joseph M. Demmitt
Clerk.

Jessie Vanderveer: First Woman to Pass the Bar in Monmouth County

Jessie Vanderveer broke a gender barrier by becoming the first woman from Monmouth County, and only the sixth in New Jersey, to pass the bar exam on June 5, 1902. Born in 1872 and a lifelong resident of Asbury Park, she studied law under the tutelage of Counselor John E. Lanning, a Prosecutor of the Pleas, in his Asbury Park office.

While Vanderveer did “hang out her shingle” in Room 27 at the Appleby Building on Main Street, there is little evidence that she actively practiced as an attorney, although frequently she was identified as one in newspapers. She listed her profession as “lawyer” in the 1905 New Jersey Census and on her passport (photo shown here), and was included in the *New Jersey Lawyer’s Diary and Bar Directory*. As a lawyer, she spoke to local organizations about the rights of married women. She was also appointed Commissioner of Deeds in 1903, as shown by the displayed oath and signature.

Vanderveer was renowned locally for her exceptional musical talents, displayed at the First Baptist and First Presbyterian churches, and then at Trinity Church, where she remained until 1925 as organist and musical director. She often performed at weddings and other special events in the city. In addition, she gave piano and organ lessons, and offered her typewriting skills at her office. After her mother’s passing in 1931, she took in lodgers. These several enterprises provided Vanderveer with a comfortable life, enabling her to travel often and, when she died in 1950 at the age of 77, leave bequests for her sister and her family. Vanderveer is buried in the family plot in Glenwood Cemetery in West Long Branch. MH

“Jessie Vanderveer; Attorney, Organist.” [Obituary], *Asbury Park Press*, May 3, 1950, 2.

Oath of Jessie Vanderveer as Commissioner of Deeds, April 6, 1903. Elections records, Monmouth County Archives.

“Property Rights of Married Women.” *Asbury Park Press*, January 26, 1911, 2.

“Resigns as Organist.” *Asbury Park Press*, January 3, 1925, 11.

Right, “Monmouth’s First Woman Lawyer.” *Asbury Park Press*, June 2, 1902, 1.

**MONMOUTH'S FIRST
WOMAN LAWYER**

Miss Jessie Vanderveer of Asbury Park Passes the Bar Examination.

E. C. WYCKOFF ALSO PASSES

Young Woman's Ambition Known Only to Few Friends and Counselor John E. Lanning—While Reading Law She Did Not Neglect Her Musical Studies—Examinations Unusually Severe.

Miss Jessie Vanderveer, daughter of Augustus Vanderveer, 1000 West Bangs avenue, is now a full fledged attorney-at-law, having passed with flying colors the



MISS JESSIE VANDERVEER.

bar examinations held at Trenton on Thursday, June 5.

Since that time and up to last evening the fair student has been kept in suspense, the result of the examinations not having been announced. Early last evening, however, a telegram from William Riker, clerk of the supreme court, conveyed the welcome tidings of success.

Miss Vanderveer went into the law offices of Counselor John E. Lanning, ex-prosecutor of the pleas of Monmouth county, as a stenographer and type-

Continued From Page Five.



Left, Emma K. Vernell, with 1947 American LaFrance Pumper fire truck, c. late 1950s, West Side Hose Co. No. 1. Below, Vernell, with West Side Hose Company and 1926 American LaFrance Pumper fire truck, early 1940s, West Side Hose Co. No. 1. Both courtesy, Red Bank Fire Department.



Mrs. Emma Van Kirk Vernell: Firefighter

"I can connect hose to fire hydrants as good as any man. It's a cinch."

When Emma Vernell joined West Side Hose Company No. 1 in Red Bank on April 5, 1926, she became the first woman in New Jersey to be recognized as a female firefighter. Mrs. Katherine DeForest reportedly preceded her as an honorary member of the Long Branch Fire Department, and although she was active with fundraising, DeForest was not a firefighter.

Vernell's husband Harry, a member of the West Side Hose Company No. 1, was an active firefighter until he suffered injuries from a fall in 1925 while fighting a fire. Less than three months after he died in 1926, Emma joined the company. Its members welcomed her participation. Thus began Emma Vernell's 40-year stint as a volunteer female firefighter.

Mrs. Vernell's Leighton Avenue home, where she took care of her invalid son for many years, was across the street from the West Side firehouse. As soon as a fire alarm sounded, Vernell ran to the station and opened the overhead door, clearing the way for the trucks to proceed. She read the indicator and relayed the location to the firetruck driver. After her son passed away, Vernell also rode on the truck. She laid and connected hoses. In 1935, the Red Bank Council granted Vernell her Certificate of Exemption. She had met the required minimum of seven years volunteer service. After many years at the West Side Hose Company, Vernell recalled, "I did what I loved best, the best I knew how." Vernell retired from the Company in 1966 and died in 1970. GJ

"Red Bank 'Fire Sweetheart' Brisk At 75." *The Daily Record* [Long Branch], January 26, 1950, 11.

West Side Hose Co. No. 1. Certificate of Incorporation, May 2, 1914. Book H, 156. [Corporations and Business Names Collection, 1833-1995](#). Monmouth County Archives.

Below, Mrs. Emma K. Vernell, Certificate of Exemption, Red Bank Fire Department [West Side Hose Co. No. 1], September 3, 1935. [Exempt Firemen Certificates, 1871-current](#). Monmouth County Archives.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION
Duplicate No. 1
For County Clerk's Record

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that..... Mrs. Emma K. Vernell
a member of the..... Red Bank..... Fire Department, has served
the required number of years as an active fireman and is entitled to this Certificate of Exemption pursuant to Chapter
176 of the Laws of 1935.

Date of joining Company..... April 5th, 1926
Date when member became exempt..... Aug. 6, 1935
Record of prior service (if any).....
Date of issue..... Sept. 3rd, 1935

.....
Chief Executive Officer of Municipality
Mayor

Attest: (SEAL)
Amy E. Shean
Clerk

NOTE: This certificate to be filed in the office of County Clerk within 60 days of issuance.



Left, Hannah and Elias Weis and family on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, c.1900. Courtesy, Red Bank Public Library. Below, first page of a building contract between Hannah Weis and William Spinning, February 8, 1894, to erect a store and dwelling at 42 Broad Street, Red Bank. The edifice actually was at 40 Broad and later renumbered. [Building Contracts](#), Monmouth County Archives.

AGREEMENT, made this *Eighth* day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ninety four, between HANNAH WEIS, of the town of Red Bank, County of Monmouth and State of New Jersey, of the first part, and WILLIAM SPINNING, of the same place, party of the second part:

WITNESSETH: The party of the second part, for the considerations hereinafter mentioned, does hereby, for himself, his heirs, executors &c. covenant, promise and agree to and with the said party of the first part, her executors, administrators or assigns, that he, the said party of the second part, shall and will within five weeks from the date of beginning said work hereinafter mentioned, and not later than *May First A.D. 1894*, do all the mason work in a certain dwelling house and store to be erected by said party of the first part on her premises No. 42 Broad Street, in said Town, County and State, agreeably to the drawings and specifications made by *A.D. Chandler*, which are hereto annexed and made a part of this agreement, for the sum of *Seven hundred & Forty (\$740) Dollars*

The party of the second part further covenants to perform the labor herein mentioned in a good workmanlike and substantial manner, under the direction of *A.M. Weis*, who shall testify his approval by a writing or certificate under his hand.

The party of the second part further covenants to complete all of said work herein and said specifications mentioned to be done by him, within the time above specified, and in case of his failure to do so, he covenants and agrees to pay to said party of the first part the sum of

Hannah Weis: The Temple of Fashion

Hannah Weis elevated fashion for women in Red Bank. Born Hannah Schwartz c.1823 in Bohemia, she married Elias Weis prior to emigrating to America c.1857. They first settled in New York, then Freehold, prior to moving to Red Bank in 1875 to open a dry goods/millinery business.

The couple lost two Front Street stores to fire, in July 1881 and November 1882, then erected a brick building at 14 West Front to replace the latter. The firm regularly advertised in the *Register*, their ads invariably in the name of Mrs. E. Weis following the style of the times, announcing the arrivals of appealing stock that elevated them to the pinnacle of Red Bank retailing. In 1893, they purchased the lot on Broad Street where Robert Chandler designed the yellow brick building known as the Temple of Fashion. At their August 23, 1894, relocation, the *Register* noted that in addition to “her usual large and varied stock of millinery, Mrs. Weis will carry in the future a fine line of hair goods,” which were not carried then in Red Bank. “As usual Mrs. Weis will keep a full stock of patterns and corsets and will also sell muslin underwear.”

After Elias and Hannah died in 1903 and 1907, the business was run by their children, including Bertha, the wife of Sigmund Eisner, Max, and the misses Rosa and Ida. Their building, readily recognizable by its distinctive cornice crest that embodies the Temple of Fashion name, remains one of the finest in Red Bank. The Weis heirs in time sold the business, while the building, retained by Eisner family interests, was sold in 1940. RG

“A Business Anniversary.”
Red Bank Register, March 21,
1900, 12.

“A Lot Sold for \$8,500.” *Red
Bank Register*, December 6,
1893, 3.

“Prominent Broad Street
Business Property Sold.” *Red
Bank Register*, June 13, 1940,
1.

Right, Hannah and Elias
Weis on a Weis-Eisner fami-
ly vase, courtesy Red Bank
Public Library.



Right, Blanche (Mrs. Karl G) Roebing, c. 1910-1915, from a glass negative, Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2014692325/>.

Below, Building Contract for new hospital between Albiona N. Whartenby and Pierce & Mount, 1903. [Building Contracts](#), Box 71, Monmouth County Archives.



2901—AGREEMENT FOR BUILDING. Matthias Plum, Law Blank Publisher, Newark, N. J.

Articles of Agreement.

Made the ~~22~~ Twenty ninth day of July
 One Thousand nine hundred and three (1903)

Between Albiona N. Whartenby

of the City of Philadelphia County
Philadelphia and State of Pennsylvania of the First Part;

And H. F. Pence and J. H. Mount trading under the firm
 name of Pierce & Mount

of the Borough of Belmar County of
Monmouth and State of New Jersey of the Second Part:

Witnesseth, First,—The said parties of the second part, do hereby for themselves
 their heirs, executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree to and with the
 said party of the first part, their executors, administrators or assigns, that they the
 said parties of the second part their executors, or administrators shall and will
 for the consideration hereinafter mentioned, on or before the fifteenth day of December A.D. 1903.
 well and sufficiently erect and finish the New Hospital

now Building to be erected at Spring Lake New Jersey on lot at North
West corner of First and Union Avenues
 agreeably to the Drawings and Specifications made by Ernest A. Arendt

Architect, and signed by the said parties and hereunto annexed, within the time aforesaid, in a
 good workmanlike and substantial manner, under the direction of the said Ernest A. Arendt, to be
 testified by a writing, or certificate, under the hand of the said Architect, as hereinafter men-
 tioned, and, also, shall and will find and provide such good, proper and sufficient materials of all
 kinds whatsoever, as shall be proper and sufficient for the completing and finishing of all the
 works of said Building on every detail (including the steam heating) in accordance
 with the plans drawings and
 works of the said Building mentioned in the Specification for the
 sum of Eighteen thousand and ninety five Dollars

And the said party of the first part do hereby, for herself her heirs,
 executors and administrators, covenant, promise and agree, to and with the said parties of the
 second part, their executors and administrators, that she the said party of
 the first part, her executors and administrators, shall and will in consideration of the
 covenants and agreements being strictly performed and kept by the said parties of the second
 part as specified, well and truly pay or cause to be paid unto the said parties of the
 second part her executors, administrators or assigns, the sum of
Eighteen thousand and ninety five Dollars,
 lawful money of the United States of America,
 in manner following:

\$2000 when the foundation is up and first floor joists are laid
 \$4000 when building is raised and sheathed to the plate
 4000 when roof is on and all floors laid
 5000 when plastering is all finished
 3095 when building and contract is completed in all particulars

Opposite, Mrs. Karl G. Roebing to P.C. Brown, January 13, 1922, copy of letter in [Ann May School of Nursing Papers](#), Elsalyn Palmisano Women's History Papers, Monmouth County Archives.

Albionia Whartenby and Blanche Roebing: A Legacy of Care

In 1903, in memory of her daughter, Philadelphian Mrs. Albionia Whartenby, a summer resident of Spring Lake, created a convalescent home on the corner of First and Vroom Avenues, to allow patients to recover in the warm summer ocean breezes. The Ann May Memorial Hospital was dedicated on June 11, 1904.

Incorporated in 1905 as the Ann May Homeopathic Hospital, it soon operated year-round with a full complement of doctors and nurses, and its own school for nurses. By 1921, a large wing was added on land donated by Whartenby. The mostly female Board of Managers coordinated necessary efforts needed to keep the hospital running. As a homeopathic institution, it received no regular county funding and relied entirely on charitable donations.

Through her efforts and substantial financial support, Whartenby helped establish the institution now known as Jersey Shore Medical Center. She had garnered considerable support from the local community, as well as donors from Philadelphia and New York, by the time she passed in 1920.

In 1922, Blanche (Mrs. Karl G.) Roebing, another summer resident and president of the hospital's Board of Managers, donated \$40,000 and land to build a home for the nurses. One of the directors of Trenton's John A. Roebing Sons Co., she chose a site on Vroom Avenue near the hospital. Roebing spoke at the dedication of the new wing, and was present at the 1931 dedication of the successor hospital in Neptune, Fitkin Memorial, a much larger facility that succeeded Ann May. Fitkin Memorial became Jersey Shore Medical Center in 1966. The Ann May name continues as the Ann May Center for Nursing, part of Hackensack Meridian Health. MH

Certificate of Incorporation. Ann May Memorial Homeopathic Hospital, 1905. [Corporations and Business Names](#), Incorporations Book E, page 201, Monmouth County Archives.

"Experts Put Ann May Hospital on Efficiency Basis." *Asbury Park Press*, April 30, 1914, 6.

"New Hospital Wing Formally Dedicated." *Asbury Park Press*, May 13, 1921, 1.

ADDRESS
MRS. KARL G. ROEBLING
211 WEST STATE STREET
TRENTON, N. J.
TELEPHONE 1811

January 13, 1922.

P. C. Brown, Esquire,
Spring Lake, New Jersey.

My dear Mr. Brown:

I thank you so much for your letter of January 10.

As it seems expedient that the Nurses' Home should be, if possible, adjoining the Hospital, or, at least, should be at closer range than the Whartenby property, could you look about for such a property and let me know if anything answering our needs is available? Naturally, this money is expended for the Hospital, and we are anxious to realize a hundred cents on every dollar.

Thanking you for your cooperation in this matter, I am,

Very truly yours,

Blanche E. Roebing
Dr. Anna C. Addison, Secretary

Right, Sea Bright Mayor and former Freeholder Cecile F. Norton, Katharine Elkus White, and Senatorial candidate Frank Lautenberg, October 29, 1982. Lautenberg had just arrived by helicopter on White's property. 1982-10-230RBR.

Below, Vassar classmates U.S. Navy Captain Grace M. Hopper and White, at a luncheon in Hopper's honor at the Molly Pitcher Inn, June 29, 1983, by Don Lordi. 1983-06-216RBR. Hopper, a computer scientist who became a Rear Admiral and the oldest commissioned officer in the Navy, is known for coining the term, "debugging."

Opposite, on December 8, 1982, "Katharine Elkus White, left, admires the plaque which dedicates the Arthur J. White Community Room at the High Point Center of Children's Psychiatric Center, Marlboro, which was named after her late husband, former president and founder of the center. With Mrs. White are Dr. Jeanne Wurmser, executive director of the center, and Mrs. White's children, Frances W. Cohen and Lawrence White." Photo by Carl Forino. 1982-12-050RBR. Quoted caption from the *Register*, December 9, 1982, B3.

All photos, *Red Bank Register* Collection, Monmouth County Archives.



Katharine Elkus White: Ambassador and Red Bank Mayor

The first woman mayor of Red Bank was born Katharine Elkus in New York in 1906. The daughter of a diplomat, Katharine lived three years in Constantinople while her father, Abram Isaac Elkus, was Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire from 1916 to 1919. He reported to Washington on the Armenian Genocide that had begun in 1915.

A 1928 Vassar College speech and drama major, Katharine entered politics that year reading remarks on behalf of Alfred E. Smith, performing well and earning speaking assignments for him while traveling to Cincinnati. Married in 1929 to Arthur J. White, who later founded the Children's Psychiatric Center in Monmouth County, they resided at her family's estate, Elkridge, on the Red Bank-Little Silver border. Becoming an active Democrat, Katharine ran unsuccessfully for office in the 1930s.

Inspired to social activism by aunt Sarah Elkus, White volunteered with several organizations during the Great Depression and WWII. Public recognition for that work helped her successful 1950 mayoral campaign, followed by reelection to two three-year terms. She became chairman of the New Jersey Highway Authority in 1955 and served nearly ten years as the first woman in the United States to head a toll road body.

In 1964, President Johnson appointed White Ambassador to Denmark, which recognized her with the Grand Cross of the Order of Dannebrog, one of its highest honors. After serving to 1968, she returned to Red Bank and focused her volunteer activity on higher education, notably the Rutgers Board of Governors. White died in 1985, two years after the pictured visit from Navy Captain Grace M. Hopper. RG

"Katy Can't Be Kept in the Kitchen." *Red Bank Register*, *Today's Woman* magazine, July 25, 1978, 2.

"Katharine White Dies at Age 78." *Red Bank Register*, April 26, 1985, A1-A2.

"Mrs. Katharine Elkus White, Red Bank." *Manual of the Legislature of New Jersey, 1942*. Trenton, New Jersey: Josephine A. Fitzgerald, 1942, 331.

"Red Bank Gets a Woman Mayor." *Red Bank Register*, November 9, 1950, 6.

United States Embassy in Denmark, Ambassador Katharine Elkus White, <https://dk.usembassy.gov>

Woman's Project of New Jersey. *Past and Promise—Lives of New Jersey Women*. Metuchen, New Jersey: Scarecrow Press, 1990.

"U.S. Navy Capt. Grace M. Hopper...." *Red Bank Register*, June 30, 1983, B1.





Above, Margaret Widdemer, c.1920, courtesy Karen L. Schnitzspahn. Below, photo from article praising Widdemer's short story collection, *The Boardwalk*, *Evening Public Ledger* (Philadelphia), January 24, 1920.

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER—PHILADELPHIA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 1920

MISS WIDDEMER MORE THAN A STORY TELLER

PLOT THAT FAILED MAN WHO MADE IT

Futile Efforts of a Solicitor's Clerk to Get Rich Quick

The popularity of "The Middle Temple Murder" has induced J. S. Fletcher's American publishers to issue a second detective story by this voluminous British writer. The new one is called "The Talleyrand Maxim." An ambitious solicitor's clerk in a provincial British town ran across a maxim one day and decided that it contained a sound philosophy which he would apply. The maxim runs, "With time and patience the mulberry leaf is turned into satin." The clerk decided that he would turn himself into a rich man and only awaited the opportunity. It came when a man brought into his office the will of a rich manufacturer in the town which had been made on the day of his death and then lost sight of because the witnesses to it were killed on the same day as the testator, and because it had been carefully hidden in an old book that no one thought of looking into. The man who found the will dies suddenly in the office and the clerk takes possession of the document and begins to blackmail the legal heirs, who are enjoying the property.

The clerk does murder before he has been plotting very long, but he thinks it is so well protected that no one can discover his connection with the crime. The story deals with the efforts of friends of the heirs to extricate them from a trouble, the nature of which they do not discover for a long time. The story is unusual in that the solution of the mystery is not kept from the reader. Its interest lies in the efforts which are made by the parties interested to solve the perplexing problems. In this respect it differs radically from "The Middle Temple Murder," a story in which the denouement is held in suspense until the very end.

MARGARET WIDDEMER
Who has written a book that lifts her into the best ranks of American fictionists

MORE WAR BOOKS ON MANY TOPICS

France's Martyred Towns, Joan of Arc, the Red Cross, a Medical Officer's Meditations

Clara E. Laughlin, who was active in welfare and reconstruction work in France, has brought her great gifts as journalist of keen, quick and shrewd observation, and her fine literary powers to the task of describing "The Martyred Towns of France." Miss Laughlin gets under the walls and into the civic consciousness of the war-wracked places she pictures in flashing and significant words. These towns have personality for her and she communicates this sense of personality to the reader. She has selected those historic cities and towns that have paid a heavy price for the world's salvation, "the towns that have endured the hot shame of occupation; the bestial spoliation of womanhood"; the wrenching agony of deportation, the blood-lustful massacre of innocents and the barbaric fury of destruction for destruction's sake. Soissons, Rheims, Arras, Amiens, Verdun are among the martyred towns.

In "The Girls' Book of the Red Cross," Mary Kendall Hyde relates graphically the work of the world's greatest welfare organization, both in war and in the catastrophe of peacetime. It is well illustrated.

Laura E. Richards is the author of a new and simply told biography of Joan of Arc. It traverses the authenticated details of the Maid's career from the peasant days at Domremy to the stake at Rouen, where, the craven French king whom she had enthroned lifting no hand, she was burned by the English, who since in an access of piety and recognition of heroic greatness are her greatest and almost unanimous admirers. Mrs. Richards handles her theme sincerely and attractively.

THE MARTYRED TOWNS OF FRANCE. By Clara E. Laughlin. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.50.
JOAN OF ARC. By Laura E. Richards. New York. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.50.

MARGARET WIDDEMER HAS WRITTEN A GREAT BOOK

Margaret Widdemer: Poet and Novelist

A prolific writer raised in Asbury Park, Margaret Widdemer was awarded one of two Pulitzer prizes in Poetry in 1919 for *The Old Road to Paradise*; the other went to Carl Sandberg. Margaret was born in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, on September 30, 1884, the daughter of a Congregationalist minister. She was largely home-schooled, then graduated from the Drexel Institute Library School in Philadelphia in 1909.

Widdemer published 32 novels and many poetry and short story collections. In 1917, the *New York Times* asserted, “She has probably written more books—certainly more successful books—than any other American author of her age.” She also wrote books for children, books on how to write, and lectured on the latter in radio broadcasts. Her best-selling first novel, *The Rose Garden Husband*, appeared in 1915, when she was just 21. Her last (below), *Red Castle Women*, was published in 1968. Widdemer’s years in Asbury Park influenced much of her work, perhaps most obviously her 1919 short story collection, *The Boardwalk*.

Widdemer was not reticent to use her celebrity for political causes. Her poem, “The Factories,” addressed child labor. She spoke out on topics such as WWI and openly campaigned for political candidates like Herbert Hoover. As she told Margery Rex of the International News Service in 1922, “The woman of the future will be one who need not suppress any part of herself in order to develop any other part. She will have a chance.” Widdemer, who married Robert Schauffler but kept her maiden name for literary work, lived in New York for much of her adult life. She died in 1978 at age 93. MZ

“Margaret Widdemer.” [Poetry Foundation](#). Web.

“Miss Widdemer, Author, Marries.” *New York Times*, September 4, 1919, 13.

“Miss Widdemer, 93, Poet, Author, Dies.” *New York Times*, July 15, 1978, 20.

“1919 Pulitzer Prizes.” [The Pulitzer Prizes](#). Web.

“Poetry Prize is Divided: Margaret Widdemer and Carl Sandberg Share Society’s Award.” *New York Times*, June 7, 1919, 4. [1919 Pulitzer prizes in poetry.]

“Stevenson’s ‘Un-healthy Optimism’ Fades in War.” *New York Times*, May 20, 1917, SM5. [Quoted above.]

“What Will Tomorrow’s Daughter of Eve Be?” *The Bridgeport Times*, February 21, 1922, 9.

“Writers to Back Hoover: Margaret Widdemer Heads Committee to Advance His Candidacy.” *New York Times*, April 3, 1928, 3.

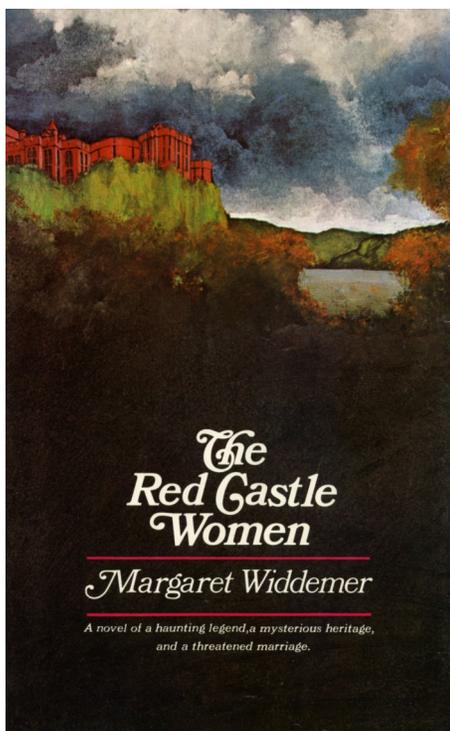


PHOTO BY BLACKSTONE—SHELburnE, N.Y.

Since her first bestseller, *The Rose Garden Husband*, Margaret Widdemer has had a distinguished and productive career that includes eight volumes of verse, thirty-one fiction, three juvenile, and three non-fiction works. She shared the Pulitzer Prize with Carl Sandburg in 1919 for a collection of poems, *Old Road to Paradise*, has received an Honorary Litt. D. from Bucknell and an Honorary M.A. from Middlebury. She has served on the Executive Boards of Christadora House, Poets’ Guild, and Unity Committee of Writers’ War Board. From 1949 to 1961 she was Vice President of the Poetry Society of America, and for many years was Assistant Director of the Chautauqua Writers’ Workshop.

Miss Widdemer lives in New York and has lectured on fiction and poetry throughout America—at Bread Loaf, New Hampshire State College, Boulder, Pennsylvania State, and New York University.



Belmar lifeguards. Above, Jeanne Bonk, with colleagues, courtesy Robert V. Pringle. Right, Doris Pflug, courtesy Karen L. Schnitzspahn.



Trailblazing Women Lifeguards of Monmouth County

It was once preposterous to think that women could serve as lifeguards. In the Victorian era, women wore restrictive wool bathing costumes and athletic activities were not considered lady-like. Bathers cautiously dipped into the water for a few minutes or clung to ropes supported by poles. Gradually, swimmers became bolder, ventured out further, and drownings increased. “Constables of the Surf” patrolled some beaches but as more tourists flocked to Jersey Shore resorts, the need for lifeguards became critical. It was then considered a man’s job.

Taking on new roles in the twentieth century, women donned form-fitting swimsuits and established themselves as athletes. During World War II, the first women lifeguards in Monmouth County began working when men were being sent overseas. In 1943, the Borough of Belmar employed a local, Doris Pflug (Jernee), after recommendation by Howard Rowland, the now legendary lifeguard captain. Soon, another Belmar resident, Catherine Coveney, was hired and the following year, Jeanne Bonk (Baldino), joined the Belmar guards. Included in the group photo, Bonk was a strong swimmer then finishing her senior year at Asbury Park High School. In the 1960s, more women lifeguards were employed, including Suzanne Kaufer (Spencer) in Belmar and Patty Fowler (McCormick), at Spring Lake. Private beaches were more likely to hire women than municipalities. “Bunny” Dillon (Bell) worked as a guard at a Sea Bright beach club starting in the 1940s.

It took years for women lifeguards to gain respect but today a woman has an equal chance to be the trusted guard on the stand. KLS

Fowler, Michael “Spike,” Bernard A. Olsen and Edward “Ted” Olsen. *Lifeguards of the Jersey Shore*. Atglen, Pennsylvania: Schiffer Publishing, 2010.

Gabrielan, Randall. *Monmouth Beach and Sea Bright*. Dover, New Hampshire: Arcadia, 1998.

Jernee, Doris Pflug, telephone interview by Karen L. Schnitzspahn, 2014.

Larsen, Erik. “First female Belmar lifeguard was in ’43.” *Asbury Park Press*, July 4, 2014, A6.

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. *Belmar. Images of America*. Dover, New Hampshire: Arcadia Publishing, 1997.

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. and Epstein, Sandra G. *Belmar, Volume II. Images of America*. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 1999.

Schnitzspahn, Karen L. *Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore*. Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015.



Right, Spring Lake lifeguard Patty Fowler, courtesy Karen L. Schnitzspahn.

Acknowledgments

After approval of the theme by County Clerk Christine Giordano Hanlon, Esq., the content for this exhibit was developed principally by George Joynson, Archives Reference Specialist; Monmouth County Historian Randall Gabrielan; Mary Hussey, Archives Processing Specialist, Monmouth County Archives; Karen L. Schnitzspahn, Independent Historian, Broomfield, Colorado; Melissa Ziobro, Specialist Professor of Public History, Department of History and Anthropology, Monmouth University; and Gary D. Saretzky, Monmouth County Archivist, who served as exhibit project manager. This group wrote all of the captions. County Clerk Hanlon continued to be supportive during the exhibit's development and made helpful suggestions regarding the captions. She and Jennifer Collins of the County Clerk's office also crafted and disseminated County media releases for Archives Week that promoted attendance at the exhibit.

Significant editorial assistance was provided by Archives volunteer Colleen Brady. Documents from the Monmouth County Archives, many of them located and scanned by George Joynson and Mary Hussey, are featured in the exhibit in conjunction with additional illustrations from other sources gathered by the caption writers. Gabrielan, Saretzky, and Schnitzspahn shared items from their personal collections. Saretzky performed final editing, scanned some of the images, and digitally prepared and printed all of them. Photographs by most of the caption writers appear in the exhibit.

When material was needed that was not in the personal or institutional collections of the collaborators, they sought and obtained illustrations from other sources. Appreciation is hereby expressed to the following individuals, most of them family members or friends of women in the exhibit, for providing photographs and other items: Christopher Boeckel; Michael "Spike" Fowler; Layonne Holmes; Lee Ingram; Sarah Patterson; Nora Poling; Robert V. Pringle; Jean Shahn; and Judy Voehle. Julia Ashbey kindly provided her own photo.

Without the work of the archivists and curators at other repositories and their willingness to make their collections and information about them accessible, this exhibit as it is presented would not have been possible. A special thank you is extended to Juber Ayala, Hispanic Research Center, Newark Public Library; Darcy Couch, University of Southern California Archives; Bette Epstein, New Jersey State Archives; Wayne Hartman, Fire Chief, Red Bank Fire Department; Floyd Hertweck and Susan Thompson, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command Historical Office, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Tom Hoffman, National Park Service, Sandy Hook; Dana Howell, Monmouth County Historical Association; Lynn Humphrey, T. Thomas Fortune House; Frances Lyons and Dale Patterson, United Methodist Archives, Drew University; Albert King and Bob Vietrogoski, Rutgers Special Collections and University Archives; Deborah Mercer, New Jersey State Library; John Pennino, Metropolitan Opera Archives; Barbara Pickel, Red Bank Public Library; Laura Poll, Trentoniana Collection, Trenton Free Public Library; Jennifer Souder, Asbury Park African American Music Heritage Project; Bob Stewart, Asbury Park Public Library; and staff at the Neptune Public Library and South Dakota University Archives and Special Collections.

Information or permissions were also provided by the following individuals, hereby acknowledged with gratitude: John Fabiano, Executive Director, Monmouth County Historical Commission; Gary Gellman, Gellman Images; Barbara Kolarsick-Harrigan, Spring Lake Historical Society and Chair, Monmouth County Historical Commission; Daniel J. Linke, Princeton University Archives; Lyndell O'Hara, Professor of History, Nyack College; Ani Roskam; Kathy Dorn Severini, Dorn's Classic Images; and Nell Draper Winston, Louis H. Draper Preservation Trust.

Other Monmouth County Archives staff worked with expertise and diligence on this project. Matting and framing were performed by Eugene Osovitz. Patrick Caiazzo, Records Manager, ordered supplies and proofread the texts, as did Christine Hanlon and George Joynson. Shelagh Reilly helped with background research and publicized the exhibit and Archives Week in October.

Additional Monmouth County employees who contributed significantly to this project included Val Pasko, Art & Display Department, Monmouth County Library, who designed the Archives Week poster and installed most of the exhibit in the library, and Aaron Townsend, Graphic Designer, Public Information, who designed the catalog cover. Mark Allen, Print Shop, supervised catalog production. Robyn Miller, Chief Librarian (Headquarters), Monmouth County Library, and her staff, including Joan Moss, also helped to promote the event and scheduled a movie on a related theme to coincide with Archives Week.

Among colleagues from professional organizations who spread the news about Archives Week and the exhibit, our thanks are extended to Linda Barth, Editor, *League News*, League of Historical Societies of New Jersey; Judy Bretzger, Editor, *The Monmouth Connection*, Monmouth County Genealogy Society; Colleen Goode, Editor, *The Chronicle*, NJLA History & Preservation Section Newsletter; Tom Anker, Chair, NJLA History & Preservation Section; Don Cornelius, Chair, New Jersey Caucus, MARAC; and Jodi Boyle, Editor, *Mid-Atlantic Archivist*, MARAC.

Caption writers are identified by initials:

GJ George Joynson
GDS Gary D. Saretzky
KLS Karen L. Schnitzspahn
MH Mary Hussey
MZ Melissa Ziobro
RG Randall Gabrielan

This catalog was printed and bound by Monmouth
County Document Services under the direction of
Mark Allen.