ARCHIVES WEEK IN MONMOUTH COUNTY, NJ

MARAC, Philadelphia
November 9, 2013
Gary D. Saretzky
Historical Landmarks

- ICA, late 1970s, calls for Archives Week celebrations
- Archivists Round Table (ART), New York, begins annual events, 1989-
- Larry J. Hackman calls for national Archives Week, SAA Newsletter, 1991
Historical Landmarks

• January 1995, MARAC Steering Committee proclaims second week in October as Archives Week, 1995
• 2005, SAA proclaims October as Archives Month
MARAC NJ Caucus, March 1995

- Archives Week to be coordinated by NJ State Archives and NJ Historical Commission
- State Archivist Karl Niederer appointed to coordinate statewide event
- Monmouth County Library meeting space reserved for statewide event, October 12, 1996
Karl Niederer, Archives Day, 1998
Archives Week in Monmouth

• May 2, 1996, Karl Niederer resigns as Archives Week Coordinator
• May 24, 1996, Archives Week Steering Committee invited by Saretzky meets
• Steering Committee meets again in June and July 1996 to plan first event
Steering Committee, 1996
1996 Archives Day Program

- Archives and history organizations at exhibit tables (90 invited; 31 registered; 26 showed up)
- Lectures and seminars (10)
- All-day videos on preservation and conservation (11)
Lecture topics, 1996

- Victorian Era at the Jersey Shore
- Relationship of Indigenous and African American Cultures
- Using Internet for Historical Research
- Arcadia Picture Histories
- Reconstructing the Monmouth Battlefield
- MARAC and CAPES
- Researching Family History
- Exhibiting Primary Resources
- Researching Historic Sites with Primary Documents
- Historical Maps of Monmouth County
Table Exhibit, NJ State Archives Bookstore
Kalmyk American Culture & Arts Foundation
Puerto Rican Community Archives with Tara Christiansen of Monmouth County Archives
1996 ARCHIVES DAY, CONT.

- Award ceremony
- Meetings of groups: Advocates for NJ History and MARAC/NJ Caucus
- Officials’ greetings & proclamation
Proclamation for 25th Anniversary of Monmouth County Archives, 2012
ARCHIVES DAY CHANGES, 1997-2013

• Name changed to Archives and History Day
• More exhibiting organizations (about 60)
• Keynote address by featured speaker
• Most lectures moved to weekdays before Archives and History Day on Saturday
• Larger annual exhibit by Monmouth County Archives
Exhibit in Library Lobby on 24 panels (discontinued)
Exhibit in Library Lobby 2013
Exhibit Case in Library Lobby (1 of 3)
Prohibition in NJ Exhibit, Library Gallery, 2013
End of Prohibition Cartoons
(1 of 40 16x22” frames)

Repeal of Prohibition, 1933

As Prohibition dragged on, there was a growing feeling that the attempt to ban alcohol was a failure. A sarcastic 1931 poem summed up Prohibition this way:

It’s left a trail of graft and crime,
It don’t prohibit worth a dime,
It’s filled our land with vice and crime.

In the 1932 Presidential election, Democratic candidate Franklin Roosevelt campaigned on the promise to repeal Prohibition, and in 1933 Congress sent the states the 21st Amendment that, if ratified, would do just that. New Jersey was in the forefront of wet states favoring repeal, and observers correctly predicted that the vote on the amendment would be a “no-brainer.” The advertisement shows how a speakeasy in Trenton threw a mock funeral for Prohibition. The cartoon, “Continued at Last!” predicts that with repeal, many gangsters would go into legitimate businesses—a prediction that came true.

TELEGRAM

Mock Burial of (Prohibition)

Tonight

Come and Enjoy the Fun
Lunch Will Be Served

Jack & Bob’s

Mona

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MORE ARCHIVES WEEK CHANGES

• Tours of the Monmouth County Archives
• No organizational meetings on Archives and History Day
• History & Preservation Section of New Jersey Library Association meets between Archives Week seminars
• Awards ceremony expanded
Gerald Ceres receives Jane Clayton Award from Claire French, 2006
Rita Fulginiti, Cape May County Clerk, receives MARAC/NJ Award, 2007
NJ State Archivist Joe Klett receives Roger McDonough Award from Maxine Lurie
MORE ARCHIVES WEEK CHANGES

• History Game added as annual feature
• Responsibility shifts from Steering Committee to Monmouth County Archives
• Videos of keynote speeches added to website, if permitted
• Monmouth County Archives exhibit catalogs produced and added to website
Preparing for Exhibit

- Select exhibit theme
- Acquire and digitize exhibit items
- Write captions
- Print facsimiles
- Sequence exhibit items
- Write introduction and acknowledgments for catalog
- Obtain cover design for catalog from graphic designer
- Proofread, assemble and print catalog, post catalog to website
- Cut mats and frame exhibit items
- Produce and distribute publicity materials about exhibit
2013 Catalog
The Bootlegger Era: Prohibition in New Jersey
Bust of a still near Plainfield, NJ, by Paul Collier, 2013 Exhibit
Preparing for Archives Week

- Prepare checklist with tasks and dates
- Determine budget and secure funding from internal and/or external sources
- Select theme, invite speakers
Preparing for Archives Week

• Invite exhibitors and manage registration process and lunch orders
• Prepare program handouts, including evaluation form
• Produce and send out publicity on a regular basis
Preparing for Archives Week: Clayton Award

• Prepare nomination form and distribute to historical agencies
• Prepare nomination materials for Clayton Award Selection Committee
• Select and notify award winner
• Send out publicity about winner before event
• Order Clayton Award engraved object and plaque
Jane G. Clayton Awardees
Plaques in Reading Room
Preparing for Archives Week

• Prepare History Game and obtain prizes
• Contract for food, exhibit supplies, keynote speaker
• Determine AV requirements for events
• Regular and varied publicity in months leading up to Archives Week
Preparing for Archives Week

• Select videos and dub to one DVD for Archives and History Day event
• Prepare list of videos for packets
• Prepare task list for staff and volunteers for Archives and History Day
Preparing for Archives Week

• Order extra tables needed for event
• Prepare list of exhibitors for program
• Design table layout and assign exhibitors to tables
• Email table list and map to exhibitors
Day Before the Event

• Set up 67 tables (six foot and 8 foot)
• Distribute chairs to tables according to how many will represent each exhibitor
• Cover tables with plastic table cloths
Day Before the Event

- Place table numbers, exhibitor signs, and program packets on each table
- Set up refreshment tables and decorations
- Test public address system
Archives and History Day tasks

• Assist elderly exhibitors unload vehicles
• Direct exhibitors to tables
• Hand out programs to public
• Set up and maintain morning refreshments
Archives and History Day tasks (2013)

• Staff Archives exhibit table and answer questions
• Set up equipment for PowerPoint
• Photography and video of event
• Screen videos and play music (1919 Victrola)
1919 Victrola
Prohibition Era Theme, 2013
Archives and History Day tasks (2013)

• Color Guard flag presentation and pledge of allegiance led by County Clerk
• Greetings from Chairman of the Monmouth County Library Commission
• Greetings from Freeholder
Archives and History Day tasks (2013)

• Present awards (various presenters)
• Deliver pre-ordered lunches to tables (6 staff, about 10 tables each)
• Archives staff and volunteers fill in at tables for exhibitors who want break
• Introduce keynote speaker
Archives and History Day tasks

• Conduct Archives tour (3 staff)
• Select History Game winners (2 staff)
• Clean up, including folding up tables
After the Event

- Analyze evaluation forms
- Email evaluation forms if needed to get more responses
- Meet with staff to review event
After the Event

- Process photographs and video
- Email photos to VIPs
- Prepare final report for grant
- Start working on next year’s event!
Benefits of Archives Week

• “Feel good about Archives” experience for VIPs
• Provide networking opportunities for historical organizations
• Publicity for Archives and other exhibitors
Benefits, continued

• Educational benefits of lectures, videos, and exhibits
• Large audience for awards presentations
• Enhance team spirit for Archives staff