

# **Dealing with Unprecedented Disaster and Damage: Real-time Responses to Hurricane Sandy**

Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference  
Philadelphia, 9 November 2013



## **Keansburg Historical Society Museum**

Society was formed in 1995. Building was gifted to the Society and opened as a museum in 1999.

[www.keansburg-historical.org](http://www.keansburg-historical.org)



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**“Keansburg” and “City of Keansburg” models**



















## **Keyport Historical Society's Steamboat Dock Museum**

Society formed in 1972. Building originally owned by the Keansburg Steamboat Company and built in 1948. The museum opened in 1976 with over 4,000 items.

[www.panoramio.com](http://www.panoramio.com)



[www.keyporthistoricalsociety.com](http://www.keyporthistoricalsociety.com)



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**Matawan Historical Society's storage shed**













**Privately-owned building lent by Keyport resident.  
Property currently up for sale.**



2012  
Candlelight  
House Tour  
SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 15  
4pm - 9pm  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT:  
Candlelight House • 80 W. Pratt Street  
Candlelight House • 80 W. Pratt Street  
Candlelight House • 80 W. Pratt Street  
OR AT THE DOOR

COFFEE

COFFEE

COFFEE

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**National Guard Militia Museum member using hepa-vacuum to clean uniforms**



**Monmouth County Historical Association off-site storage facility, with Angel Jeandron, Tom Caruso, MCHA Museum Curator Bernadette Rogoff**



## **Middletown Township Historical Society MacLeod-Rice House at Croydon Hall**

Built in 1894, modified in 1910 as part of gentleman's farm, was private boarding school 1946-1975. Township purchased in 1977 and the Society opened it as their museum in 1984. [www.middletown-nj.patch.com](http://www.middletown-nj.patch.com)













# Smaller Societies

- Volunteer run; members are older in age
- Little or no operating budget
- No archival background; do not know preservation procedures
- Not members of archival community
- Not aware of resources available
- Tend to be isolated, protective, wary
- No disaster plan in place

# Smaller Societies

- Goal is to preserve the history of their specific town
- Focus is on their specific collective memory
- Because of that local focus, they fulfill a need that larger county and state organizations cannot

# How Larger Organizations Can Help

- Realize the value of locally-focused historical organizations
- Be more approachable
- Reach out and get them involved in workshops, seminars, lectures, organizations
- Support their events
- Offer to lend a hand or be available to give advice



# Support Organizations

- League of Historical Societies of New Jersey
- American Association for State and Local History
- Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference:  
New Jersey Caucus Archival Projects  
Evaluation Service (CAPES)

# Planning for the Future

- Group emergency plan
- Secure a storage area beforehand so no time lost moving items
- Attend workshops
- See what other organizations do; network
- Perfection is not necessary – it can be done correctly at all levels ....

.... so come visit me and see how!

Laura M. Poll, Librarian/Archivist  
[monmouthhistory.org](http://monmouthhistory.org)



Monmouth  
County  
Historical  
Association