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of the Estate of John Estell

Recd. Received from

# South Jersey Culture & History Center Stockton University Annual Report 2015-2016

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1860.  
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10	March 26	One Quarter
11	Apr 26	"
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## This Indenture

Know all men that John A. Coates and John R. Coates of the County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey for and in behalf of the County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same is now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gloucester County, New Jersey, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same is now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Know all men that John A. Coates and John R. Coates of the County of Gloucester and State of New Jersey do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same is now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gloucester County, New Jersey, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same is now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gloucester County, New Jersey.

### R'S SALE

and  
Personal Property

Atlantic, in the State of New Jersey, bearing date the twenty-second day of  
and wherein Anderson Bourgeois is plaintiff and Daniel L. Risley

### T DAY OF MAY, 1902

in the afternoon, at  
**Louis Kuehnle**  
of ATLANTIC CITY  
for parcels of land, to wit:

Before me the subscriber Mayor of the City of Philadelphia do hereby certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same is now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gloucester County, New Jersey, and that the same is a true and correct copy of the original of the same as the same is now on file in the office of the County Clerk of Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Sealed and Delivered in the presence of  
Mary Thomas  
Puff Blau 1860



Letter from Anna Smith to Alice Smith, November 5, 1850. From the Rebecca Estell Bourgeois collection, Special Collections, Bjork Library.

The report's outer covers display a selection of materials from the Rebecca Estell Bourgeois collection.

Absecon Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 50

Dear Alice,

I am now at Absecon board-  
ing with Rebecca Smith for the sake of  
having Doctor Pitney to attend me. I have  
been here most two weeks. I do not know  
how long I shall stay. Alice I send  
twelve dollars in this letter and want  
you to get me a long shall and a  
bonnet. I do not want a very large shall  
for I cannot wear a very large one.  
I would like something drab and red  
but not a dasky glairing red. I like  
a carmine red. I send seven dollars for  
the shall and five for the bonnet. I do  
not know hardly what kind of a bonnet  
to get but I think I would like a  
deep pink watered silk with two or three  
little feathers in it. Alice send them as  
soon as you can for I am here without  
bonnet or shall direct them to  
Absecon to the care of Rebecca Smith.

Anna Smith

South Jersey Culture & History Center  
Stockton University  
101 Vera King Farris Dr.  
Galloway, New Jersey 08205

Director, Tom Kinsella  
Assistant Director, Paul W. Schopp

[blogs.stockton.edu/sjchc/](http://blogs.stockton.edu/sjchc/)

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**South Jersey Culture & History Center  
Stockton University  
Annual Report 2015-2016**







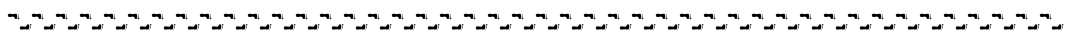
The Editing Interns, Spring 2016

### **South Jersey's Abundance**

Visitors to South Jersey and even some long-time residents may be surprised by the area's rich cultural history; it is diverse, long-standing and endlessly compelling. The South Jersey Culture & History Center of Stockton University (SJCHC) seeks to increase awareness of this vibrant cultural heritage. We offer experiential learning based on South Jersey topics; assist in developing the Bjork Library's South Jersey Collections; generate community programming; and reach out to local historical and cultural organizations. The Center had a good year in 2015-2016. Through the efforts of many associated Stockton students, additional insight has been brought to this intriguing region of New Jersey.

### **Objective 1: Experiential Student Learning**

A benchmark goal of SJCHC, which the former and current Deans of the School of Arts and Humanities suggested, has been development of an internship course centered around South Jersey topics. The idea is to blend the best efficiencies and group-interaction of classroom teaching with the flexibility, innovation, and responsibility of independent study. Prior to 2015-2016, SJCHC engaged students in numerous independent studies and internships, but they were generally single-student experiences. This year we attracted a cohort of students interested in editing and publishing: they became our first twelve editing interns, and constituted our first internship course.



In spring 2016 these twelve students completed the EDITING INTERNSHIP COURSE (cross-listed in HIST and LITT). They learned line and copy editing, typography, design and layout, and use of the industry-standard software package for page-layout: Adobe *InDesign*. They also learned quite a bit about South Jersey. The combination Creative Writing / Digital Humanities lab (F-218) became the workplace where students edited, designed and brainstormed. Their chief project was publication of the inaugural issue of *SoJourn*, our journal of South Jersey culture and history. In addition, editors worked on three additional publications, *Garment Workers of South Jersey*, *The Outfit* and *Bungalow Life in the Jersey Pines*.

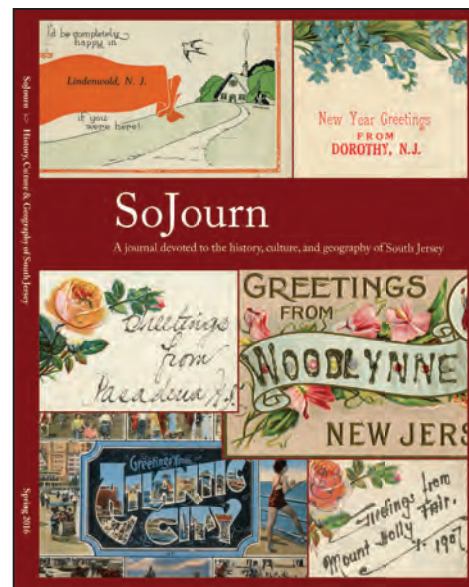
Local historians submitted eight essays and one remembrance to *SoJourn*. Seven editors were responsible for an essay apiece; two worked jointly on one especially challenging essay. Editors who were not assigned direct responsibility for essays edited one of the three additional texts. In the final proofreading and review stages, all of the interns focused their work on *SoJourn*.

The editors – William Bassett, Kristina Boyer, Taylor Carmen, Kyle Ewers, Jenna Geisinger, Rebecca Hund, Aurora Landman, Greg Melo, Olivia Oravets, Ashley Robertson, Najjasia Thomas and Gabrielle Venezia – were attentive to editing details and design ideas, and they completed their work with credible skill. They wrote copy for advertising within the journal and contributed important critiques to the cover design. The team is especially proud of *SoJourn*'s “Map of Contents,” an idea suggested by one of the editors.

Lightning Source, an Ingram Content Group company, printed the 92-page journal, with glossy paperback cover and full-color printing. *SoJourn* is available at the Stockton Campus Center Bookstore, Second Time Books in Mount Laurel, the Pine Cone Gift Shop in the AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center, the Visitors Center at Smithville (part of the Burlington County park system), the Pine Barrens Store in Shamong on Route 206, and Amazon. We are working to make this and other SJCHC titles available through a Upay portal accessed via the Stockton University website.

At the release of this report, we have sold or distributed nearly all of our initial print run of 433 copies and have ordered another 100 copies. All profits are deposited in the SJCHC publication fund to help support future publications.

In fall 2016 an additional eleven interns are registered for the second EDITING INTERNSHIP COURSE. We anticipate offering the course in succeeding semesters – publishing *SoJourn* twice a year.



*SoJourn*, Issue 1, \$7.95



## Additional Publications

We issued four other publications this year, all but one completed with student help.

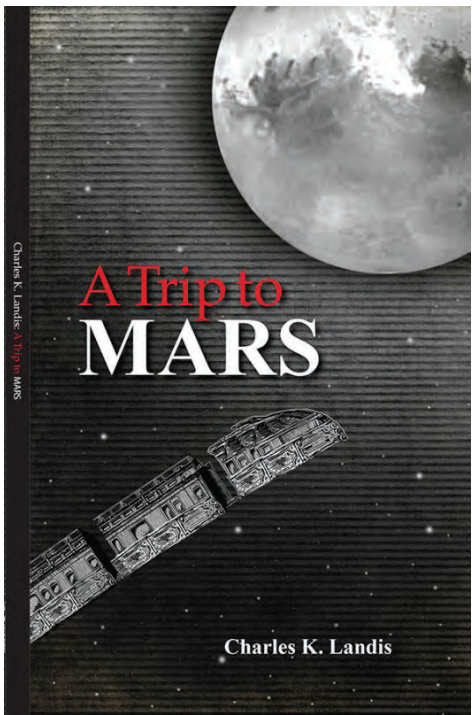
### *A Trip to Mars*

Charles K. Landis, the founder of Vineland, New Jersey, wrote *A Trip to Mars* c. 1876, and the typescript remained forgotten and unpublished until its discovery two years ago in the vault of the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society. Patricia A. Martinelli, curator of VHAS, contacted SJCHC and asked whether we might jointly publish this intriguing work.

Landis crafted a sci-fi novel that alternates between thrilling storytelling and thinly veiled commentary on the social ills of the Earth. Two intrepid voyagers travel to Mars where they explore its geography, confront its terrifying monsters, and meet ancient Martian society, from whom Earthlings may learn much.

The 135-page paperback was typeset by William Albertson (AMST 2015) and proofread by Eddie Horan (AMST 2015). The cover design was completed by Heidi Hartley, Stockton Graphics Production. It was published in August 2015.

*A Trip to Mars* has sold well and generated a good amount of interest in the local press:



ISBN: 978-0-9888731-5-5, \$9.95

“Take *A Trip to Mars* with Charles K. Landis,” notice by Patricia A. Martinelli,  
**www.GardenStateLegacy.com**, June 28, 2015  
[http://www.gardenstatelegacy.com/files/Take\\_a\\_Trip\\_to\\_Mars\\_Martinelli\\_GSL28.pdf](http://www.gardenstatelegacy.com/files/Take_a_Trip_to_Mars_Martinelli_GSL28.pdf)

“Sci-fi Written by Charles Landis is Discovered,”  
**SNJ Today**, July 15, 2015  
<https://snjtoday.com/video-sci-fi-written-by-charles-landis-is-discovered/>

“Vineland Founder’s Imagination Took Him to Mars,”  
**Press of Atlantic City**, Saturday, July 25, 2015  
Thomas Barlas, staff writer  
[http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cumberland/vineland-founder-s-imagination-took-him-to-mars/article\\_8d148dec-3185-11e5-905e-0377bcb59a19.html](http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/press/cumberland/vineland-founder-s-imagination-took-him-to-mars/article_8d148dec-3185-11e5-905e-0377bcb59a19.html)

“New Science Fiction Novel Written by Vineland Founder in 1876 Released,”  
**SNJ Today**, August 7, 2015  
<https://snjtoday.com/science-fiction-novel-w3454ritten-by-vineland-founder/>





A launch party for *A Trip to Mars* was held on September 17, 2015 at Kramer Hall in Hammonton. Patt Martinelli, curator of VHAS (who also contributed an article to *SoJourn*), joined director Tom Kinsella in introducing the text to those in attendance.

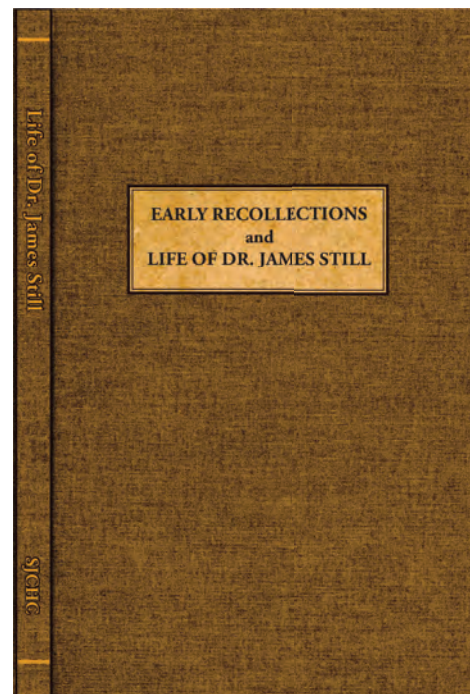
Finally, Martinelli and Kinsella sat down with Jim Quinn for his weekly television broadcast *SJN Today Hotline* on May 9, 2016. They talked about *A Trip to Mars* and other topics related to their efforts within the South Jersey historical community.

<https://snjtoday.com/snj-today-hotline-dr-tom-kinsella-pat-martinelli/>

### *Early Recollections and Life of James Still*

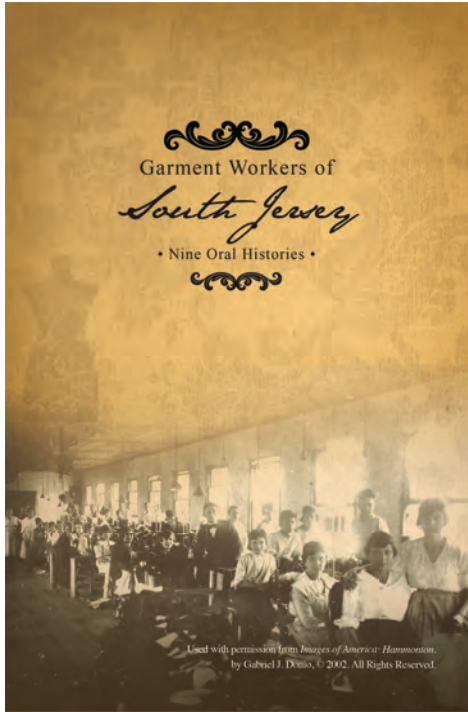
To date the best work published by SJCHC is our republication of James Still's autobiography. During the nineteenth century, Still was perhaps the most gifted physician in South Jersey. He was also African American, the son of former slaves. Born in Shamong, New Jersey, Still was self taught in both medical knowledge and practice. He overcame poverty and racial animus to become one of the wealthiest men in South Jersey during his lifetime. This republication of his outstanding autobiography, self-published in 1877, is a stirring reminder of the power of self determination and faith.

This edition of *Early Recollections* is not a facsimile reproduction but is newly typeset with a foreword by Samuel C. Still III, second great grandnephew to Dr. Still, and a new introduction by Paul W. Schopp. It includes a new and enlarged index. Heather Ganiel (LITT 2015) skillfully edited and typeset the text; Eddie Horan (AMST 2015) proofread this 179-page paperback, published in fall 2015.



ISBN: 978-0-9888731-6-2, \$8.95





***Garment Workers of South Jersey: Nine Oral Histories***

We teamed up with the Stockton Center on Successful Aging and Kramer Hall for this, our second joint publication. Social Work students under the supervision of Dr. Lisa Cox completed the interviews for this volume, including recording and initial editing; Professor Cox, Patricia Martinelli, Christina Birchler and Christina Boyer (COMM 2016) then made the final edits.

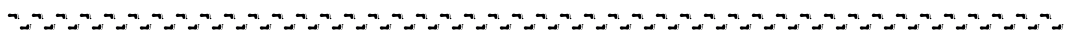
Ms. Boyer, a spring 2016 editing intern, did an excellent job designing and typesetting the 85-page paperback text. Heidi Hartley designed the cover based upon an image of garment workers used with permission from *Images of America: Hammonton*, by Gabriel J. Donio.

ISBN: 978-0-9888731-8-6, \$7.95

Two additional titles are in production and, when published, will complete the work of the spring 2016 editing interns.

***Bungalow Life in the Pines: Letters of Fred Noyes Senior*** is a series of letters collected by Judy Courter, author of *Fred and Ethel Noyes of Smithville, New Jersey: The Artist and the Entrepreneur* (Arcadia 2013). This colorful series of letters, written and illustrated more than eighty years ago by Fred Noyes Sr., mayor of Lower Bank, New Jersey, and father of Fred Noyes Jr., details life in the Jersey Pines. Kyle Ewers (LITT 2016) digitized the letters for reproduction, designed the text, and wrote the foreword to this 24-page pamphlet.

***The Outfit by Budd Wilson***. In a story-teller’s style, Budd Wilson Jr., local South Jersey archaeologist and historian, shares his father’s experience as a New Jersey State Trooper, detailing Budd Sr.’s career, first as a horse-mounted trooper stationed in Chatsworth during the 1920s and then as a member of the motorcycle unit charged with patrolling the newly opened White Horse Pike. Olivia Oravetts (LITT 2016) researched, typeset and designed this 24-page pamphlet.

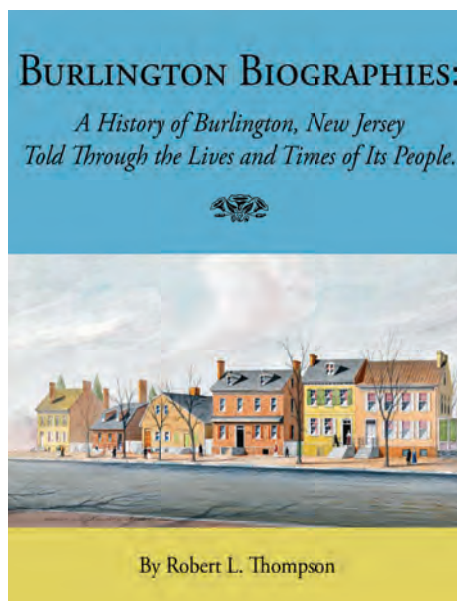




### *Burlington Biographies*

Our final publication this year is the first in an occasional series of original scholarship. Most of our paperback titles are printed by Lightning Source, a print-on-demand service with an excellent product. Our goal is to create handsome, well-edited texts that are very inexpensive – and we have achieved that goal. Occasionally, however, we will publish ambitious studies that contribute significantly to the understanding of South Jersey culture and history.

Robert L. Thompson's study is such a work. *Burlington Biographies: A History of Burlington, New Jersey, Told Through the Lives and Times of Its People* is a work twenty-five years in the making. It takes a fresh look at the history of Burlington, New Jersey, its rich heritage and longstanding lore. In places it supports and strengthens well-known historical accounts; in others it topples commonly held myths that extend back a century or more. Topics include African American history, the American War for Independence, architecture, artisanal work, city planning, immigration, merchants, and prior local historians, among a host of others. Publication of this title was assisted by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.



ISBN: 978-0-9888731-9-3, \$29.95

*Burlington Biographies* is the only text published this year that students had little role in preparing for the press. Paul W. Schopp, Assistant Director of SJCHC, completed the chief editing, layout and design for this 558-page hardcover text, with dust jacket. Thompson-Shore, Inc. of Dexter, Michigan is completing the printing and binding.



With the help of Stockton students, SJCHC publishes works that explore South Jersey's rich cultural heritage. Through a mix of first-time publications and out-of-print titles, made available inexpensively, we encourage the study of our community, past and present.

In fall 2016 we will be working on the second issue of *SoJourn*. We also will ask editors to work on *William Still: His Life and Work to This Time* by James P. Boyd. This republication of the 1886 life of William Still, brother of James Still and activist and historian of the Underground Railroad, is published in anticipation of the symposium on the Still family to be held by SJCHC in spring 2017.

With nine titles published by SJCHC – five this year – we are considering ways to improve our methods of distribution. Most of these titles are available through Amazon, and we hope to have a Upay portal available soon. Our first sales catalog is forthcoming this fall. We are doing a reasonable job at distribution, but with help





ISBN: 978-0-9888731-0-0  
 paperback \$6.95  
 digital \$1.99

could do much better. The University might consider support in the form of sales and distribution staff.

Finally, since its inception SJCHC has been aware of trends in digital publishing. We have planned that at least some of our publications be made available in both paper and digital formats. We are pleased to announce that our 2013 publication, *Atlantic City*, is now available for download via Amazon. The original 95-page paperback costs \$6.95; the new digital version sells for \$1.99. Other digital titles will be forthcoming, prepared by editing interns and digital humanities interns.

### Internships as Experiential Learning

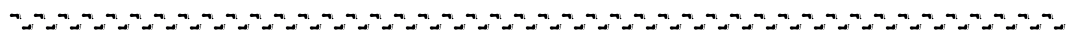
We look forward to improving the experience of the EDITING INTERNSHIP COURSE in the fall 2016 and succeeding semesters. It is the first of several experiential learning courses envisioned by SJCHC. For numerous semesters we have overseen individual student projects – independent studies, internships, and distinguished student fellowships – in areas related to digitizing, documentary making, and information literacy. Each

of these areas can be developed into experiential learning courses: the limitation does not appear to be student interest, but rather faculty availability to oversee such courses.

In spring 2017 we have scheduled the second such course, the ORAL HISTORY INTERNSHIP COURSE (cross-listed in COMM and LITT). Director Kinsella will introduce best practices for the preparation, recording, and post-production of oral interviews. Finished interviews, with transcripts and context statements, will be made available digitally. We are starting small, hoping to enroll four students.

We continue to work with students on an individual basis, but in the future hope to develop several other experiential learning courses, including

- Documentary Internships – providing opportunities for student scriptwriters and filmmakers to research, plan, film, edit, and present their work based on South Jersey subject matter. Students would strive to produce documentaries of sufficient quality to broadcast on the Stockton Channel, and upload to Stockton’s You tube feed.
- Digital Humanities Internships – providing digital assistance to the Center’s on-going digital projects and providing digital assistance to historical societies and cultural venues.





- Digitizing Internships: South Jersey Collections – introducing best practices for digitization in a special collections setting; digitizing appropriate holdings in the South Jersey collections of Special Collections, the Bjork Library.
- South Jersey Collection Internships – introducing students to the operation and maintenance of the South Jersey collections within Special Collections, the Bjork Library, including creation of holdings checklists, sorting and arrangement of materials, development of exhibition materials and simple, fully reversible conservation techniques.
- Outreach Internships – providing skilled and informed assistance to historical societies and cultural venues. These internships would be particularly valuable as second-term opportunities if interns have previously gained hands-on experience with the staff of the Bjork Library.

In each internship course, students would be provided with instruction and guidance sufficient to develop strong practical skills and to produce important and enduring work associated with the study or preservation of history and culture in South Jersey.

Many of these internships, in particular the Oral History and Documentary internships, are particularly apt for thematic projects involving interdisciplinary studies. We envision working with the graduate programs in American Studies, Holocaust and Genocide Studies, and Social Work, undergraduate programs across the University, the Stockton Center on Successful Aging, the Office of Veteran Affairs, historical societies, and other entities on and off campus.



SJCHC currently oversees individual students working in all of these areas. Two documentaries are in production – on the archaeologist Budd Wilson and the impact of World War I on South Jersey – with a third planned to begin in the fall on the Occoquan incident and South Jersey Suffragists. One student has completed a semester of research on the Jewish farming community of Alliance, working to create a digital museum documenting this important South Jersey community, and a second is working this summer to move the project forward. In fall 2016 an American Studies graduate student will intern as student assistant in Special Collections.

The current limitation to turning such individual learning experiences into more efficient internship courses is faculty and administrative support. Director Kinsella, the only faculty member directly responsible for these efforts, cannot devote additional teaching hours to such internships and also teach courses required by the LITT program. One way to develop and further support such initiatives would be to employ a full-time archivist or special collections curator.





### **Student Internships / Independent Studies / GAs / Courses**

#### *Summer 2015*

AMST 5800-401 (3 credit) Editing South Jersey (1 student enrolled)  
AMST 5910-001 (6 credit) Whitesbog Internship (1 student)  
LITT 4900-001 (1 credit) Rancocas Nature Center Internship (1 student)

#### *Fall 2015*

LITT 4800-001 (4 credit) The Folklore of South Jersey (2 students)  
Graduate Assistant, American Studies, Daniel Dinnebeil

#### *Spring 2016*

GEN 3800-003 (4 credit) The Jewish Agricultural Community at Alliance (1 student)  
LITT 3918 (4 credit) The Editing Internship (12 students enrolled)  
Graduate Assistant, American Studies, Daniel Dinnebeil

#### *Summer 2015*

AMST 5800-401 (1 credit) World War 1 in South Jersey (1 student)  
LITT 4800-401 (4 credit) Research and History of the Alliance Colony (1 student)



### **Student Outreach**

SJCHC has reached out to the Stockton community in a variety of ways. On September 16 - 17, 2015, Kinsella and Paul W. Schopp tabled at the "Get Involved Fair." Our table had excellent visibility near the entrance of the Bjork Library and we introduced the Center to many members of the Stockton community. The October 10, 2015 issue of the *ARGO* had a front-page article written by Joseph W. Sramaty entitled "South Jersey Culture & History Center Expands Reach, Seeks More Interns!" All SJCHC events were well advertised, and descriptions of SJCHC internships were sent to all ARHU majors before the start of the precepting period. Outreach is an area that needs constant attention. We will continue to work to raise our profile among Stockton students directly and through a variety of social media. To engage students, after all, is the primary reason for the existence of the Center.





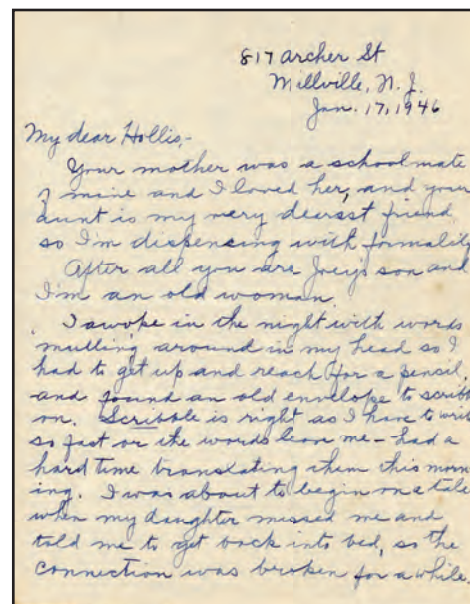
## Objective 2: South Jersey Collections within Special Collections & Archives, Bjork Library

For several years, Director Kinsella has served as one point person for possible donations to the growing South Jersey collections in the Bjork Library; David Pinto, part-time archivist of Special Collections & Archives, is another. Kinsella and Pinto facilitated the David Munn gift in May 2014, adding over 10,000 New Jersey and South Jersey titles to Special Collections. Of course, acquisition of materials, large or small, places additional strain on the resources and personnel of the Library. Because of this, effective communication between SJCHC and the staff of the Library remains one of the most important duties of the director. No gift is facilitated without the express understanding and agreement of the library.

SJCHC also works with library staff to provide funding in support of storage, preservation, and digitization of the South Jersey collections within Special Collections & Archives. In late spring 2015, the final funds from a 2020 grant in support of SJCHC and library programming (2014-2015) were used to retrofit compact shelving as lockable space, much needed for safe storage of Special Collections materials. SJCHC funds also contributed to the preservation and framing of the 1872 *Topographical Map of Atlantic Co., New Jersey*, that hangs in the map room by the reference desk.

### Emma Van Sant Moore Collection

The Library has received gifts in previous years from Charles “Budd” Wilson, primarily related to the Pine Barrens. Budd is a retired archaeologist who supervised important digs at the Batsto Glass House and Martha Furnace in Burlington County. He remains a noted local historian. In early 2016 Budd supplemented prior gifts with documents about the local glass industry and with a thrilling collection of manuscript letters sent from Emma Van Sant Moore to Arthur Hollis Koster. The collection of approximately 90 letters dates from 1945 through 1950 and chronicles one side of the correspondence between Moore, a retired school teacher and poet, and Koster, a well-known local botanist. From Moore’s forthright introductory letter to their growing intimacy as the communication matures, a delightful correspondence develops that discusses South Jersey folklore, history, and poetry, which both correspondents clearly loved. This unique collection is sure to delight student researchers and editors. It is a strong addition to the South Jersey collections of Special Collections & Archives.



Budd Wilson also facilitated a small donation of books from the collection of Mary Ann Thompson – lawyer, environmental and historical activist, and cranberry grower – recently deceased. At Budd’s request Paul W. Schopp and Kinsella selected a quite limited number of books from Thompson’s collection that they thought would complement the library’s South Jersey collections. Budd also donated materials from Thompson associated with the famous Chatsworth Club and the less famous Chatsworth Club II, including slides and photographs.

### **The Rebecca Estell Bourgeois Collection**

During spring 2016 SJCHC also facilitated the donation of the Rebecca Estell Bourgeois collection, named after the first mayor of Estell Manor (1887–1933) – and the first woman mayor of any town or city in New Jersey. The collection, donated by Bert and Pam Bourgeois, spans a period of South Jersey history from the mid eighteenth through the early twentieth century. The Estell (later Bourgeois) family accumulated their wealth based on land acquisition and the products derived from the associated forests, beginning with lumber and naval store production, boat building, shifting to iron production during the first half of the 1800s, and glassworks between 1825–1877. Following this period of early industrialization came railroad-era land speculation formulated on small, intensively worked farm plots on poor soil, with settlement often occurring along ethnic lines. The collection provides insights into the Estell-Bourgeois family dynamics throughout these periods, as well as their relationships with other well-known families in the area, some to whom they are related such as the Wests, Somers, Steelmans, Risleys, Ingersolls, Campbells, Lees, Westcotts, Abbotts and many more. The collection makes an important contribution to our knowledge of southeastern Atlantic County, a poorly understood but historically dense region and one that is imperfectly represented in local repositories.<sup>1</sup>

Included are several hundred deeds and documents related to the purchase and sale of lands centered on Weymouth Township, Atlantic County, but also properties as far south as Cape May County, west into Cumberland County and north to Chestnut Neck on the Mullica River. In addition, the collection includes 192 letters, many related to various business dealings of John Estell III (1780–1839) and his glassworks, along with his son Daniel E. Estell (1801–1858); a small account book belonging to John Estell, dating from the 1820s; and a wide range of receipts to and from members of the family. While the strength of the collection dates from the first half of the nineteenth century, there are also significant numbers of letters and documents related to family members in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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<sup>1</sup> Thanks go to Carl Farrell and Mark Demitroff, local historians, who first made contact with the Bourgeois family and encouraged Kinsella to reach out to them about this donation. Mark Demitroff, Adjunct Instructor of Geography, and Board Member, South Jersey Culture & History Center at Stockton University, contributed the history of the Estell-Bourgeois family detailed in this paragraph.





Carl Farrell and Mark Demitroff reviewing the Rebecca Estell Bourgeois collection before donation.

The Rebecca Estell Bourgeois collection is primarily a manuscript collection, and although these original documents survive in a relatively high state of preservation, the collection needs to be properly housed, stored and then accessioned so that it can be made available to the students and the public. To that end SJCHC has provided funds for several hundred dollars of preservation materials including archival boxes, sleeves, and folders. It is a goal of SJCHC, when it plays a role in the donation of gifts, to assist the library in all possible ways, including enhancement of facilities, contribution of preservation materials, and student assistance.

### **The BCC Pinelands Collection**

SJCHC facilitated the acquisition of a third important collection that arrived on campus in June 2016. Stockton alum Elizabeth Carpenter informed Director Kinsella that the Pemberton campus of Burlington County College was considering deaccessioning its Pinelands Collection, first developed in the 1980s by BCC librarian Judith Olsen. Kinsella and Paul W. Schopp met with Martin A. Hoffman, Associate Dean, Distance Education and Integrated Learning Resources at BCC (now Rowan College at Burlington County), in early 2016 and having ascertained that the collection was available and complemented Stockton's collections, they consulted the staff of the Bjork Library who agreed to the acquisition. The collection consists of printed texts pertaining to the Pine Barrens, filling gaps in Stockton's South Jersey collections and allowing numerous important titles to



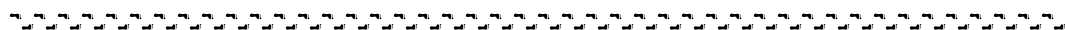
be included in the circulating collection as well as Special Collections. Also included are an important collection of records related to the Evans & Wills Company, Inc., a family owned berry farm (mainly cranberries, some blueberries) that continued nearly 100 years from 1868 to the mid 1960s. In addition, the numerous vertical files of the BCC Pinelands Collection provide an added boost to Stockton's existing Pinelands vertical files, a collection of pamphlets and articles compiled during the 1970s and 1980s with little additional material added since that time.



Nick Zebrowski (COMM 2016) and Ashley Vaccaro (AMST 2016) working with Stephanie Sussmeier of the Bjork Library Digital Preservation Team in the development of the Hammonton History Project. Image taken from *Stockton Now* Fall 2015, Vol. 6 No. 3.

### **The Digital Preservation Team and the Hammonton History Project**

In January 2015, two American Studies graduate students, Stephanie Allen and Eric Anglero, kicked off the Hammonton History Project in celebration of the Town of Hammonton's sesquicentennial celebration throughout the year of 2016. The goal of the project is to digitize historic images and artifacts related to Hammonton, making them freely available on the web using the Bjork Library's image database software, *ContentDM*. Three student interns followed Allen and Anglero: Nick Zebrowski during summer and fall 2015; Ashley Vaccaro during fall 2015; and Christina Cowick (LITT 2016) during spring 2016. Each of these students made unique and important contributions to the project, working skillfully with the





staff of Kramer Hall and the Digital Preservation Team of the Bjork Library (Gus Stamatopoulos, Eric Jeitner, Stephanie Sussmeier, Jian Wang). The Hammonton History Project will be described in further detail below. It is mentioned here as an excellent example of SJCHC interns working closely and effectively with the staff of the Bjork Library.

### Other Library Interns

In fall 2015 Grace Henrichs (ECON 2015) served as Digital Humanities intern for Special Collections & Archives, developing and implementing a social media campaign meant to raise the profile of Special Collections & Archives.

In fall 2016 Leslie Wood (AMST) will serve as collections intern in Special Collections. Given the three newly acquired collections and day-to-day curating necessary, she will be exposed to all aspects of work within a special collections environment.



The Bjork Library is rapidly becoming an important repository for collections that preserve and shed light on the culture and history of South Jersey. Stockton students are beginning to make use of the collections already in place, and we are working hard to encourage more to do so. Obvious outcomes of student work in Special Collections include library exhibitions, digital publications, documentaries, and scholarly and popular publications.

Stockton University, it seems, has arrived at a crossroads as it relates to Special Collections. In order to tap their outstanding academic potential, the South Jersey collections require more robust staffing. A full-time archivist or special collections curator and improved staffing is unquestionably necessary to improve opportunities for Stockton students and community members. Development of an appropriate reading room is also advisable.



Louise Tillstrom at work in Special Collections & Archives

In addition, SJCHC believes that it is possible to facilitate donations over the next decade that would double the size of the existing collection. Such an expansion, given the necessary upgrade in facilities and space, would need university-level support. University-wide discussion of whether such an expansion is warranted has not taken place, but should.





### Objective 3. Community Outreach

SJCHC has found excellent partners in Kramer Hall and the Town of Hammonton. Over the past three semesters we have been involved routinely with both as we developed the Hammonton History Project and other programming in preparation for Hammonton’s Sesquicentennial celebration throughout 2016.

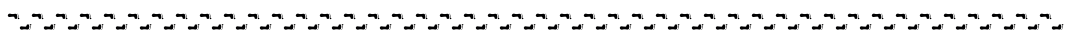
The Hammonton History Project, begun in January 2015, has relied on student interns from the start. Students mapped out a digitization methodology that offered the best mix of preservation and community involvement. They researched industry-leading databases for digital content delivery and preservation, deciding that *ContentDM* was the smartest choice. Students completed the digitization of materials and the uploading of files and metadata to the Bjork Library digital site. The library’s Digital Preservation Team oversaw student work with *ContentDM*, and SJCHC and Kramer Hall advised the students as well. We are quite proud of this student-led production. To date hundreds of historical images have been made available through the Hammonton History Project.

#### STOCKTON UNIVERSITY KRAMER HALL



Kramer Hall’s Sesquicentennial logo was designed by Nick Zebrowski, a melding of old and new with the Hammonton town clock. Nick was an intern who produced excellent work for the Hammonton History Project.

The Hammonton History Project is “proof of concept.” We are now working with community members connected with the Alliance Colony, near Vineland, gathering and digitizing images of the community, stretching from the late nineteenth century into the second half of the twentieth. The end result, several semesters in the making, will be a digital museum of cultural history. Our successful work on the HHP has enabled this exciting initiative; it will lead to others as well. Especially gratifying has been our ability to keep the project underway, from semester to semester, with one cohort of interns teaching the next.



SJCHC was involved with several events at Kramer Hall throughout 2015-2016.

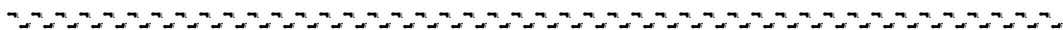
**Launch Party for *A Trip to Mars*** on September 17, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Patricia A Martinelli introduced Charles K. Landis' previously unknown text and Director Kinsella provided comments about its literary merits.

**Digitization Day in Hammonton**, Saturday, April 2 (D-Day), 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. As part of Hammonton's sesquicentennial celebration, Kramer Hall and SJCHC invited the community to bring historic photographs, postcards, documents, and artifacts related to the Town of Hammonton to be scanned or photographed, and then immediately returned to the owner with a digital copy. In addition, as materials were digitized, community members were invited to attend lectures on Hammonton history by Gabriel Donio and Paul W. Schopp along with a short play written and performed by Stockton students.



With no RSVP mechanism, who or how many community members would show up on D-Day was anyone's guess. Approximately two dozen community members arrived and had artifacts digitized. There was a total of eleven donating families who agreed to have approximately 110 artifacts digitized and returned to them. All agreed to the preservation and display of their images on the Bjork Library's Hammonton History Project. Images and artifacts included Hammontonians in WW2 uniforms, union dues receipts, prom pictures, railroad retirement certificates, someone's horse, plus much more.

**Collecting Oral Histories.** Two half-day workshops teaching best practices for capturing oral histories: April 8, 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., designed to train students in the value, art, and techniques of interviewing; April 15, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., round table discussion with members of local historical societies asking whom and where to interview.





On D-Day we offered two repeated lectures on Hammonton history – Gabriel Donio on Hammonton and Paul W. Schopp on *THE BLUE COMET* – along with a great short play, *Postcards from Hammonton*, written and performed by ARTP student Katie McGough and recent COMM alum Nick Zebrowski (above). We had good audiences for every session.



### **“I Joined the W.A.V.E.S.: My Service to God and Country”**

March 30 from 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. This event was part of Kramer Hall’s “Women’s March Toward Equity” series. Jane Schopp, of Riverton, New Jersey, who served in the Navy W.A.V.E.S., shared her experience in the United States Navy, accompanied by her son, Paul W. Schopp, assistant director of SJCHC. Jane Schopp’s service began in December 1943 during the defining days of World War II and lasted until January 1946. Although not strictly speaking a SJCHC-sponsored event, we are pleased to report a full-room for this excellent presentation by Jane Schopp and her son, Paul.

During May 1944, Storekeeper 3d Class Jane Fountain (Schopp) sits on a tow moter while receiving instructions on her new assignment at Mercer Field, Ewing Township, Mercer County, New Jersey.





## SJCHC and Hammonton

Our close association with Kramer Hall has introduced SJCHC to other public organizations within Hammonton.

Kinsella attended a day-long session of “Creative Hammonton” (January 26, 2016), joining a diverse group of community members from commerce, education, philanthropy, government, culture, faith-based, community & social service sectors to discuss how to use creativity and innovation to positively impact Hammonton.

Director Kinsella and Paul W. Schopp were named as historical consultants for a New Jersey Council for the Humanities grant won by the Eagle Theatre for its exhibition: “Changing Faces of Immigrants in Hammonton.” The engaging and well-designed exhibition, the work of Jim Donio, Zane Sebasovich and the Eagle Theatre crew, accompanied the staging of *Our Town*, which weaved motifs of Hammonton into Thornton Wilder’s script (May 20 - June 25, 2016).

Kinsella also worked with the Hammonton Historical Preservation Commission to create an updated version of the Hammonton Walking tour in time for the 2016 sesquicentennial. Originally a Digital Humanities intern was asked to revise a previous paper version of the tour and to create a digital version, available to

The attractive front end to the Hammonton History Project, designed by intern Christina Cowick:  
<http://intraweb.stockton.edu/eyos/page.cfm?siteID=261&pageID=94>

anyone with a smart phone. Work was begun by the student, but not completed. Kinsella then worked closely with the HHPC to finish a well-designed digital tour. It can be accessed by phone, computer, or tablet at the following address:

[textscape.stockton.edu/walkinghammonton](http://textscape.stockton.edu/walkinghammonton)

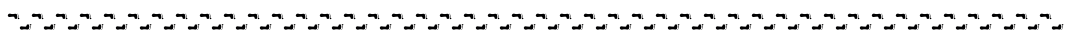
Finally, SJCHC also has consulted with the Noyes Museum, which has increased its presence in Hammonton, in the development of two exhibitions presented at Kramer Hall. The first exhibition, “Hammonton: 150 Years of Industry,” is in place from March 7 - August 8, 2016. The second, “Hammonton: 150 Years of Agriculture,” will be in place from August 15 – December 31, 2016. Paul W. Schopp reviewed and edited as needed the handout for the “Industry” exhibition and has offered to do the same for the “Agriculture” exhibition.



The Town of Hammonton is certainly not the limit of SJCHC’s outreach. Instead, it suggests the rich possibilities available throughout South Jersey. The digital preservation techniques developed and utilized by interns in the Hammonton History Project can be duplicated for any town, community organization, or social group. Admittedly, the HHP and other projects have run smoothly given the excellent and enthusiastic assistance of the staff of Kramer Hall, but we foresee future projects with other towns and organizations throughout South Jersey and trust in similar successes.



Some of the artifacts in the Eagle Theatre exhibition “Changing Faces of Immigrants in Hammonton”



#### Objective 4: Outreach to Historical Societies

SJCHC's most obvious work in this area involves preparing and placing students at historical societies within internships that provide experiential learning for the interns, but also help support the efforts of each society.

During the past year we had hoped to increase the number of historical societies that have up-to-date affiliation agreements with Stockton (currently the only such agreements are with Whitesbog Village, Vineland Historical & Antiquarian Society, Rancocas Nature Center, and Batsto). We had identified one student who was excited about the possibility of working with a local historical society, but no amount of discussion with that society would induce them to sign Stockton's affiliation agreement. We have contacted Cynthia Mason Purdie, Administrator, Atlantic County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, for assistance. She is willing to help bring together key members from several historical societies in order to argue the importance of partnering with Stockton. Before such a meeting can occur, Director Kinsella needs to work with Stockton's legal department to see whether a less onerous affiliation agreement can be crafted especially for local historical societies and community organizations.



The Hammonton Historical Society

A further goal is to serve as a center for cooperative programming within the historical community. We have begun this work in the following ways:

The second day of the SJCHC/Kramer Hall "Collecting Oral Histories" event brought together members of several historical societies to discuss best practices and possible cooperative efforts.

SJCHC facilitated the copying of DVDs and paper transcripts of oral histories completed by Elizabeth Carpenter with elders within the Chatsworth, New Jersey, community in the early 1990s. These histories, available on a limited basis through the Woodlands Township Historical Society, are now also available at Stockton.

Local historical societies are often hampered by a lack of funds. With the support of Robert Heinrich, Chief Information Officer of Stockton University, SJCHC has facilitated the placement of a "new" used computer in both the Hammonton Historical Society and the Hamilton Historical Society. These computers, taken out of use at Stockton as obsolete, are significant upgrades at the historical societies.





## Grants

Grant writing is an important aspect of SJCHC efforts; it has been met with solid success this year.

- Teaming up with the able staff at Kramer Hall, SJCHC submitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities in late June 2015 entitled “Common Heritage,” sponsored by the Division of Preservation and Access and Division of Public Programs. We had high hopes for this grant, which was to fund two Digitization Days in Hammonton, but it was not funded. Stockton University stepped in to fund a one-day event.
- Again teaming up with Kramer Hall, SJCHC submitted and was awarded funding through a 2020 grant for “Telling Their Stories, Preserving Their Past,” which supported the two days of “Collecting Oral History” in April 2016.
- In fall 2015 SJCHC was awarded a \$3000 mini grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to assist in the publication of our first hard-cover study, *Burlington Biographies*.
- SJCHC served as historical consultants in support of Eagle Theatre grant “Changing Faces of Immigrants in Hammonton,” awarded by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities.

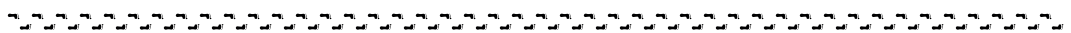
Looking forward, SJCHC will continue to apply for grants to support its programming and, if appropriate, for improvements to the Bjork Library’s Special Collections & Archives.

## From the Director

Stockton University’s support for SJCHC has been unswerving and strong. The staff of Arts and Humanities have been unfailingly helpful. Deanna Tumas has been especially unflappable and resourceful. Lisa Honaker, Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities, and Robert Gregg, Dean of General Studies and former Dean of ARHU, both have been steady in their support and wise in their counsel. The Office of the Provost and the Office of the President have of course been deeply supportive. I hope development of the Center has progressed adequately to repay this support.

Paul W. Schopp has been invaluable in all SJCHC endeavors. His ability to work intelligently, quickly, and thoroughly is enviable. His understanding of South Jersey and his acquaintance with members of the historical community have been useful at every turn.

Members of the SJCHC advisory board also deserve great thanks. Mark Demitroff, Linda Stanton and Eileen Conran-Folks have each contributed in multi-faceted ways. I will not chronicle their every effort, but I will mention that the donation



of the Rebecca Estell Bourgeois collection and the contact that started our Alliance Digitizing project would not have been made without the good offices of Mark Demitroff. Linda Stanton has consistently brought opportunities to our attention, and made sure that I have been introduced to helpful luminaries in the South Jersey historical community; it was an introduction that she made that ultimately led to the donation of the BCC Pinelands Collection to Stockton. Her efforts in community organizing (and those of her husband Jim) culminate in the annual *Lines on the Pines* event, an exemplary model for how to engage a community with its own culture and history. Finally, Eileen Conran-Folks has consistently championed projects that teamed SJCHC with the able staff of Kramer Hall, and through them to the community members of Hammonton and environs. Hammonton has been called the “gateway to the Pines.” If this is true, then Kramer Hall is Stockton’s portal to this important hub of South Jersey.

Many community members have worked closely with SJCHC over the past year, but no more so than Betsy Carpenter, Ted Gordon, Patt Martinelli, Budd Wilson and Marilyn Schmidt. With great patience, they have tried to teach me about South Jersey, and in the process we have become friends.

### **Naming Lake Fred**

We trust that student interns who join us on one project or another gain much from the experience (see their comments below). Paul W. Schopp, having worked for decades as a prolific historian of South Jersey, knows the thrill of historical research. Kinsella has been digging into this history as well, and quite close to home. Last summer he spent an enjoyable period tracking down the true story of the naming of Stockton’s lake in the essay “Naming Lake Fred.” It reinforces the idea that the history in our own backyards is fascinating, often complex, and worth knowing.



Two students who worked with SJCHC on the Hammonton History Project described their experiences in the October 5, 2015 issue of *The ARGO*:

Stephanie Allen reported:

“I can honestly say that the people I’ve met and projects I’ve collaborated on as a result of my involvement with the Center have changed the course of my life. I’m more connected to the community and the area, as well. Anyone who has the opportunity to be a part of the tradition of engagement the SJCHC is creating should absolutely take advantage of it; they will not regret it.”



Nick Zebrowski stated:

“This was an incredible experience for me as an undergraduate communication student because it enabled me to partner with community organizations like the Historical Society of Hammonton. I learned a good deal about a town whose long history is filled with pride and rich culture, and I developed meaningful relationships with Stockton faculty and graduate students. Through my internship, I was able to gear my future career aspirations toward working in digital media thanks to the opportunity Stockton University has provided to me.”

The Center seeks to engage all students who are interested in the study of South Jersey, either for its intrinsic value or for its relationship to their disciplines. Such students are exposed to the following Essential Learning Outcomes:

Communication Skills, Creativity and Innovation, Critical Thinking, Information Literacy and Research Skills, Program Competence, Teamwork and Collaboration

Add to this list experiential learning, digital fluency, and community outreach and you have a good idea of the outcomes that students can expect as a result of their engagements with the Center.

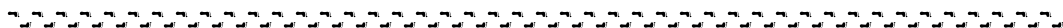


### **Executive Summary**

Building on the foundations laid during the 2014-2015 school year, the South Jersey Culture & History Center in 2015-2016

- built new programming and academic opportunities for Stockton University students
- provided a much greater impact on those residents in South Jersey that take an interest in the history and culture of the area
- assisted the Bjork Library in adding significant donations to the South Jersey collections held in Special Collections & Archives
- assisted the Bjork Library Digital Preservation Team in developing its digital collections
- produced five new publications, including the first issue of our twice-yearly journal *SoJourn*
- made our first epub available through Amazon
- successfully wrote and administered several grants

Looking forward to the 2016-2017 school year, the SJCHC expects even greater success in its multifaceted endeavors.





I cut an armful of pussy willow  
from thirty to sixty inches in length  
and placed them in my floor  
vase - perhaps I've already told  
you. I am so wooly most of  
the time. They are the largest,  
darkest gray catkins(?) I've ever  
seen. Some are a little over one  
inch long and so thick and furry.  
I sketched the vase - 18" though the  
color should be darker - or black.  
I hadn't the colors for the pussyes.

On March 22, 1948, Emma Van  
Sant Moore wrote to A. Hollis  
Koster (below) describing a vase of  
pussywillows that she had sketched.  
A portion of the letter is shown  
above; the pussywillows below  
right. From the Emma Van Sant  
Moore collection, Special Collec-  
tions, Bjork Library.





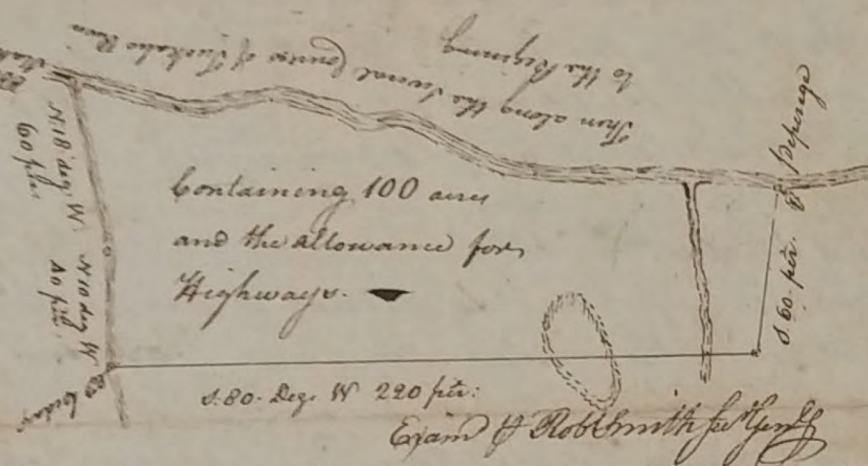
# THIS INDENTURE made this 10th day

of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and <sup>thirteen</sup> 1813 BETWEEN Jonathan [unclear] Elizabeth [unclear] party of the first part, and Joseph Jones Esquire of the City of Philadelphia

party of the second part, WITNESSETH, that the said party of the first part, for and in consideration of the lawful money of the United States of America paid by the said party of the second part before the seal of the said party of the first part, the said party of the second part hereby acknowledge, hath granted, bargained, sold, alien, enfeoff, release and confirm, unto the said party of the first part, and to the heirs and assigns forever, all that certain

This Indenture is dated January 26<sup>th</sup> 1813

The Executors of



1142  
 April 22 Costs of suit against  
 March 29 J. Shade "Bill for  
 January 11 Peter Kent  
 July 14 Taxes  
 August 14 W. Causter's Report  
 " 20 Goodell Bill for  
 Sept 1 Bricklayers  
 " " Cleaning  
 Nov 2 J. Stokes Harper

Course	Feet	Things Remarkable
N 82 1/2 W	60	Beginning at Mouth of the fork And so running with twelve No. Oxen
N 70 1/2 W	40	
S 80 1/2 W	220	
W	60	

Dearest, I intended your things for Horace but suddenly without letting was going. I expect to be at St. Louis, Missouri to at half past three before sent your articles name chain bracelets (two) and, which I believe is

Savannah Jan 7<sup>th</sup> the 8<sup>th</sup> 1799

My dear Wife  
 This my second since my arrival to inform you of my safety, and I wish I could say satisfied with my prospects, I have been here nearly two weeks and have not sold one article, God help me if my luck has no change very shortly, fretting will spare me, for to be kept from you and not to do any thing to compensate for the separation is rather hard, but perhaps I know only see the worst side and that the better will shortly present itself at any rate I have this consolation that I will at any time have it in my power to return when the navigation of the Delaware will permit, I pray you therefore not to omit writing by every post and give me every information in your power, you like a long Epistle but as I have no particular subject now will conclude being a tender of my love to all Friends  
 Your Affectionate Husband  
 Wm. Jonas Keen  
 Ethan Offers his Respects

City Jan 20  
 W. E. Cole

I have got a my uncle in he say his name was William two Brothers who was John and for Johnathan was called a Tom and

**AUDITOR**  
 of Real Estate  
 Per

By virtue of an order of the Circuit Court of the County of Atlantic, in a certain cause in attachment therein dependent, there will be sold at Public Vendue on  
**THURSDAY, THE FIRST**  
 At one o'clock in  
**the Hotel of I**  
 IN THE CITY OF

in the said County of Atlantic, all the following described tracts