



WHO are you?

GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·



JUNE 2019

June 12th Wednesday

4:30 PM — Meet and chat

5:00 PM --- Historic NEWSPAPERS!

HOW to find newspapers from around the country and HOW to search for people stories relating to your ancestors.

We'll explore a variety of options that are available on the Internet free of charge that can be searched (each with their own research challenges for getting to what you hope to find.) Also a short history of local newspapers and where you can go locally in Rhode Island and Massachusetts to find historic newspapers in one format or another. A handout will be provided for future use. Bring some ideas on who you would like us to search -- best would be a person from the 19th or 20th century.



To look at the paper is to raise a seashell to one's ear and to be overwhelmed by the roar of humanity.

~ Alain de Botton, Swiss philosopher



AMERICAN
ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

The American Antiquarian Society was founded in 1812 by renowned publisher and patriot **Isaiah Thomas** (1749 – 1831). According to the website: "The AAS library today houses the largest and most accessible collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides, newspapers, periodicals, music, and graphic arts material printed through 1876 in what is now the United States, as well as manuscripts and a substantial collection of secondary texts, bibliographies, and digital resources and reference works related to all aspects of American history and culture before the twentieth century." The library is close by in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Blessed are they who never read a newspaper, for they shall see Nature, and through her, God. ~ Henry David Thoreau

Sign up for July 10th Tour of Judicial Records Center



5 Hill Street Pawtucket 02860

Sign up with Grayce at Reference.

If you have never had any reason to visit the Center, try to make it this time while we have a tour of the inner workings. **Andrew Smith, Archivist** will head our tour, give us tips on how we can best use the the archives to research court records. **See Grayce for time, more information and directions.**

From the website: The Rhode Island Supreme Court Judicial Records Center (JRC) serves as the central repository for the Rhode Island's Judiciary's semi-active, inactive, and archival court records. Current records that are still necessary for the daily operations of the courts remain stored at the Clerk's Office of the respective court. The Archives at the Judicial Records Center (JRC) contains the pre-1900 court records that were created by the five (5) judicial counties (Newport, Providence, King's/Washington, Bristol, and Kent) of the colony and State of Rhode Island. Check the website for types and dates of records that may be found at the archives.

**Replaces regular meeting
of July 10th: 2:30PM**



RHODE ISLAND JUDICIARY



Mohr Library Genealogy Group

2nd Wednesday, 4:30 Special Program times vary

LIBRARY Hours

Mon–Thurs 9-8 ♦ Friday 9–6 ♦ Closed Saturdays—July, August

This newsletter is created and written by **Grayce Moorehead, MILS**

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Upcoming Programs of Interest

♥ **July 8 @ 6pm History Stories: Secret Spies and their secrets revealed**

with Professor Beth Shinn [RWU, RIC]

♥ **July 10 @ 6pm TOUR!!**

Mohr Genealogy Group: Judicial Records Center-

Programs like this only come around once in a great while. Our last trip here was in 2016, and **Andrew Smith** has graciously offered us another tour. This is where court records are collected from all over the state – back to the 1600's. Even if you are not a real Rler, experience an incredible amount of history.

♥ **July 15 @ 6pm History Stories: Famous and infamous Women** with Professor Beth Shinn [RWU, RIC]

We are starting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the vote for women, the 19th Amendment. Learn about some characters of the time.

"If you don't read the newspaper, you're uninformed. If you read the newspaper, you're mis-informed."

~ Mark Twain

♥ **July 16 @ 7pm Author Visits: Rhode Island Clam Shacks**

with authors **Christopher Scott Martin** and **David Norton Stone**

Local authors have compiled a fascinating collection of places to get (or you got) our seafood in an "Images of America" sure to please book.

♥ **July 22 6pm History Stories:**

Unsung Heroes: Reformers of 1800's America with Professor Beth Shinn [RWU, RIC]

Try a relaxing Craft Class

♥ **July 29 5:30pm**

Glass Painting with **Loraine DiLorenzo**

♥ **July 30 5:30pm**

Paper Artistry with **Carolyn Leon**

♥ **July 31 5:30pm**

Rock Painting with **Grayce**

SEED CATALOGS

I happened to run across some information by accident on seed catalogs, so as the packets and catalogs are ephemera, I thought you would be interested, particularly because so many of our ancestors were farmers. [Aside: I just stayed at Enfield Shaker Museum in NH, and that Shaker Family was known for their outstanding seeds.] Additionally, checking a bit further, I discovered that the Smithsonian has a fascinating and extensive collection of more than 10,000 nursery and seed catalogs dating back to 1830's. Part of this collection is available online in an easily searchable database by company, fruit, flower, people or vegetable. [URL on request] if the art of gardening or your small farming venture intrigues you, you may want to pursue more information on this topic and



again the Smithsonian site offers a wealth of information. There's a comprehensive bibliography for further study, and a who's who list of notables in the plant industries. Sometimes we take all the names for granted. For instance, who was W. Atlee Burpee? The back story on Burpee (1858 – 1915) is that he wrote scholarly articles about poultry when he was only 14 and corresponded with experts around the world, and at 18 he started a mail order business of chickens and their feed. Soon he was asked to supply seeds of other vegetables.

When Atlee died in 1915, the Burpee Company was the largest seed catalog in the world, had over 300 employees, and received over 10,000 orders a day.

What I like about the catalogs and packets are the interpretations of gardening that are so idyllic. Anyone who has ever picked up a trowel knows that woman on the Green's Nursery catalog would have a very messy dress reaching down to pick all those enormous strawberries, and who wouldn't want all those Angels romping around picking perfect veggies in their back yard?



Saving & Organizing Documents

♥ **Scan and Email - FREE**

If you have fragile or special photographs or documents that you want to share or keep, you can keep them digitally. Many newspaper articles yellow and fall apart. Receipts often do not last until tax time! You can use our copy machine to scan and make pdfs without a charge. The Circulation staff will be able to show you how to scan and label images or docs.



Although I do not believe that a plant will spring up where no seed has been, I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there and I am prepared to expect miracles.

~ Henry David Thoreau



Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library

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