

## Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings Boonton Historical Society & Museum

*by Jody Lutter & Mary-Jo Solomon*

The Boonton Historical Society and Museum is located in the Dr. John Taylor House 210 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey.  
973-402-8840      [Boontonthistory@Boonton.org](mailto:Boontonthistory@Boonton.org)

The museum is open on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and by special appointment. Admission is free.

The Boonton "Holmes" Library is located at 621 Main Street, Boonton, N. J.



On March 5, 2017 MAGS Special Projects Group members Jody Lutter and Mary-Jo Solomon met with Veronica Jelic, one of the curators of the museum. We took a tour of the museum and the rooms housing the archived materials. The SPG will be helping with an inventory of these materials. Veronica showed us the varied collections of family files, photos, information from local companies-Boontonware, Boonton Molding Products, information from 1900 about the N.J. Firemen's Home, 1888 news about the Morris Canal, the 1848 Survey Map of Boonton, map of the Historic Homes of Boonton, information about the creation of the Jersey City Reservoir. One room contains a display of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of Boonton in 1967. The museum has the town timeline from the early 1700s to the present around the perimeter of the room. There are also displays about the local Iron Works, the Civil War, local leaders, schools.

The Boonton Historical Society was founded in 1959. Currently there are over two hundred members of the BHS. The museum is open every Sunday and in most months there is a specific program some months have multiple events. The list is on the website. On June 11<sup>th</sup> there is a local walking tour of the Historic Residential District, you meet at the museum. It is free for BHS members and a \$5 donation is suggested for non-members. There is a lot of information on the website including current Monthly News Bulletins and past newsletters. are many The BHS is actively supported by its

many members. It has two archivists and two curators. There are two gift shops in the museum with a collection of books for purchase.



Boonton is celebrating its Sesquicentennial Anniversary this year. The Boonton Day Festival will be on September 24 on Main Street.

In conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Boonton, the Boonton Historical Society published the book *Images of America: Boonton*. The author of the book is Veronica Jelic.

The Holmes Library is another treasure. It has a local history room with an extensive collection of books. Included in the archive are some school memorabilia: Boonton and Morris Catholic High School yearbooks, School Street School photos from the 1980s, the 1875 school population report for Pequannock Montville and Boonton compiled for the county superintendent. Many local history books: *Old Boonton & The Jersey Reservoir* by Arline Fowler Dempsey, *Boonton was an Iron Town* by Peter C. Wendt, Jr., *The Boonton Years 1867-1967 by The Citizen Newspapers*, *Voices of America: Boonton* by Arthur Rabin. Local museums and libraries contain materials that are not available anywhere else. It is an eclectic collection it includes the financial records of Boonton Research Corp for 1932.

If you are fortunate to have ancestors from Boonton and the surrounding towns you have a lot of research materials available. You can view the Boonton Times from 1870 to 1970 (the list of specific years is available on the library website) on your laptop via a usb drive or on the Local History computer only at the library.

The Special Projects Group (SPG) members have been visiting local repositories to learn what genealogy related materials might be available for review by our members in researching their ancestors and/or gaining historical context to enhance their stories. In the series of articles we share the main features of our interviews with repository members spotlighting the information, collections and features available for research at each location.

The SPG has completed the inventory of genealogical and historical information in the vertical files, family binders and the map collection at the Denville Historical Society and Museum. It is now up on the MAGS Public website.

If you know of a local repository that the SPG should visit, or one that you wish to cover with us for a future article, please contact the Special Projects Group Committee at [maryjosolomon@gmail.com](mailto:maryjosolomon@gmail.com)