

## **Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings The Historical Society of Florham Park & The Florham Park Library**

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The Historical Society of Florham Park is located at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 203 Ridgedale Avenue in Florham Park, NJ. The museum is open on the first Sunday of the month from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The Florham Park Library is located at 107 Ridgedale Avenue, Florham Park, NJ.



*The mission of the Society shall be to gather, preserve, make accessible, and interpret the data, traditions and objects pertaining to the history of Florham Park and vicinity.*

The Historical Society of Florham Park was founded in the 1930s. It is a volunteer organization with ninety members. Some have given many hours to the HSFP. MAGS member Nancy Lack is an officer in the society. The Little Red Schoolhouse Museum was opened in the 1970s. School classes and scout groups have attended programs presented by member docents. There are hundreds of pieces of local history in the museum.

The members created an Election Display; it included the original register book of voters in the November 2, 1920 United States Election. It was the first time that women could vote in a presidential election since the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment. Christine Davidson, the Museum's Curator, went through the register book and compiled a list of the names and addresses of the one hundred and ninety-six women who voted. A total of three hundred and eighty-two votes were cast in that historic election.

Seven of the HSFP members are currently working on indexing the materials. Some of the artifacts in the collection have detailed information while other items do not have the specifics listed. There are a few family histories and some letters as well as some old PTA records and Brooklake Chapel items in the collection. The group is currently working on creating a uniform inventory system. The HSFP has monthly programs

September to May; most of these are at the Florham Park Library at 7pm on a Tuesday night.

Please check the library's website, <http://florhamparklib.org/>, for the dates and information about the programs. The library has recently digitized the *Florham Park Eagle & Community News* and *Florham Park – East Hanover Weekly News*. These newspapers can be accessed only on site.

The library has a wonderful New Jersey Room with many reference books specific to the community and the surrounding towns in Morris County. The *1910 Atlas of Parts of Morris Co., NJ Morristown* and the *1897 Atlas of Morris County* show the landowners' names and the acreage and location of the properties. The esteemed New Jersey Historian, John T. Cunningham, who was a resident of the town, wrote the *Images of America book, Florham Park*. Eleanor Weis, another long time resident, wrote *Saga of a Crossroads Florham Park* in 1988. Other local resources include *The History of Morris County* published in 1882 by W.W. Munsell & Co., New York and some Hanover Park and Whippany yearbooks from 1969 to the present. *Morris County Memories* in three volumes from 1850 to 1990 compiled by the Daily Record has many photos and postcards courtesy of ten local historical societies and two libraries.

The Little Red Schoolhouse is celebrating its Sesquicentennial Anniversary this year. Many activities have been planned. In the January 23, 2017 Arts & Entertainment Section of TAPinto – Your Neighborhood News Online, East Hanover/Florham Park at <https://www.tapinto.net/towns/east-hanover-slash-florham-park/articles/florham-parks-iconic-little-red-school-house-cel>, the article's author John Nehrings lists the current schedule of events for the anniversary celebrations. Please contact the Historic Preservation Commission at [FPHistoricPreservation@gmail.com](mailto:FPHistoricPreservation@gmail.com), if you have stories, photos, information and memorabilia about the history of the borough. The Florham Park July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Little Red Schoolhouse and the 65<sup>th</sup> year of the parade.

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 just 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. This information will be 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)