

## Local Spotlight: Repository Holdings Morris Plains Museum

by Mary-Jo Solomon

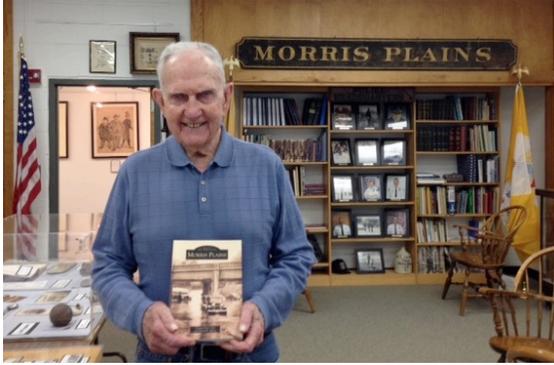
The Morris Plains Historical Museum is located in the  
Morris Plains Community Center Building  
at 51 Jim Fear Drive, Morris Plains, New Jersey.  
Telephone 973-683-1089 - Email [info@Morrisplainsmuseum.org](mailto:info@Morrisplainsmuseum.org)  
[Website: www.morrisplainsmuseum.org](http://www.morrisplainsmuseum.org)

The museum is open on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays  
from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and by special appointment.  
Admission is free.



On Saturday July 8, 2017 MAGS Special Projects Group member Mary-Jo Solomon met with Maryclare and Daniel B. Myers. Dan is the borough historian and the museum director. There are many displays with information on the schools, Fire Department, history of the Library, Mansions of Morris Plains, the G. Washington Coffee Co., Monahan's local band, photos from 1800s, fossils, arrowheads, Lenape – English language book, farm tools, household items, the political cartoons of Homer Davenport. A large map of the borough and an accompanying binder with over sixty photos of local homes and businesses is a popular display. Residents come in to see if there is an old photo of what their house or business looked like in the early days of Morris Plains. A walking tour map of the borough is available; it has over forty locations identified by photo and historical description.

The current special exhibit is World War I. It will be on display though Armistice Day 2017. Personal family artifacts such as uniforms, dog tags, photographs, newspapers, medals and letters have been loaned and included in this display. There is also a permanent display of the residents who died in service to our county. The book, *Forever Young*, created in 1966 by students of James Beaver at Morristown High School has photos and biographies of all the local residents who died serving our county in World War II. There is also a plaque with the names of all residents who served in the war.



The *Images of America: Morris Plains* book was co-authored by Daniel B. Myers and Virginia Dyer Vogt with the support of the members of the museum board. Julia Beers' book, *A History of Morris Plains* includes photographs from the turn of the 20th century. It has a map with the locations of the local businesses dating back to 1685. Julia mentions most of the families living in Morris

Plains in 1926. She tells of marriages, relatives and locations of family properties. If you have ancestors who lived in the borough, this book is an invaluable finding aide in your research. Dan has compiled interviews on audiotapes of recollections of over twenty long time Morris Plains residents. These local remembrances have been transcribed and they are available for reading. This material is only available at the museum. The interview that I read was over thirty pages long, it included many names and great details of growing up in Morris Plains. Come into the museum to look at these local treasures, they could help you in your genealogy research.

The local newspapers, *The Morris NewsBee* and the *Morris Plains Chronicle* are available on microfilm at the museum and also at the Morristown - Morris Township Library.

Please contact the museum if you have local memorabilia: old photos, flyers, pamphlets, or family genealogies. Additional items are mentioned on the website. The museum recently received a donation of a mug, "St. Virgil's Bazaar 1902".

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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. This information 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)