

NJS Presents**Museums, Archives, Artifacts, and Documents****In this Issue:*****George Moss Collection Donated to Monmouth University*****By Kurt Wagner****DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.14713/njs.v4i1.109>**

In December 2017, the family of noted Monmouth County historian George H. Moss, Jr., donated materials he had collected to Monmouth University, a private, comprehensive 4-year institution in West Long Branch, NJ, located about a mile from the Atlantic Ocean. With a 2016 enrollment of 6,371, the University offers undergraduate and graduate programs across all traditional disciplines as well as a Doctorate in Nursing Practice and an Ed.D program. Monmouth University is a Grammy Museum affiliate, offers a Peace Corps Prep program that is unique in New Jersey, and is the home to the Monmouth Polling Institute.

The northern New Jersey shore has been a popular tourist destination for well over a hundred years. Its proximity to New York and Philadelphia and its easy access by ferry and rail to these metropolitan areas made it an early 20th century playground for not only the well-to-do but also for those of more modest means. Interest in the Long Branch, NJ beachfront and surrounding communities continues to the present in the form of investment and construction such as the multiphase Pier Village development, begun in 2006 and concluding with its final phase, slated for completion in 2020, according to the *Asbury Park Press* (2017).

George H. Moss Jr., a longtime resident of Rumson, NJ, authored several books depicting this history of Monmouth County. He was a trustee of the Monmouth County Historical Association, and was affiliated with and awarded by state, regional, and national historical,

government and community organizations. When Mr. Moss died in 2009, he left behind a large collection of 19th century Monmouth County books, illustrations, ephemera, and memorabilia pertaining to Red Bank, Oceanport, Long Branch, and surrounding communities. These materials date from the 1870s to the 1940s and highlight the popularity of the area as both a residential and recreational destination.

In December 2017 the Moss family, represented by his four children (George H. Moss III, William D. Moss, Tamire A. McKenna, and Elizabeth A. Silva) made a significant donation to Monmouth University consisting of approximately 777 Pach Brothers stereoview cards and postcards (many in color, depicting beach scenes, hotels, and shore mansions), 283 Long Branch postcards, 165 Red Bank postcards, 64 Monmouth Park postcards, and a selection of Red Bank KKK chapter handbills, notices, announcements and other advertisements.¹ The Moss Family made an accompanying monetary donation to support the curation and eventual digitization of these materials.

The Moss Family donation, received by the University Library, will be made available to the public with advance coordination and will provide unique learning opportunities for Monmouth students. For example, a Public History class offered by the Department of History and Anthropology will in the Spring of 2018 begin to digitize and archive the materials with the goal of creating a web-searchable visual research database that will preserve and make available for future study these artifacts of historical Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The following images offer *NJ Studies* readers a look at sample items from the collection:

¹ The KKK had an active presence in NJ, particularly in (though not limited to) the 1920s.



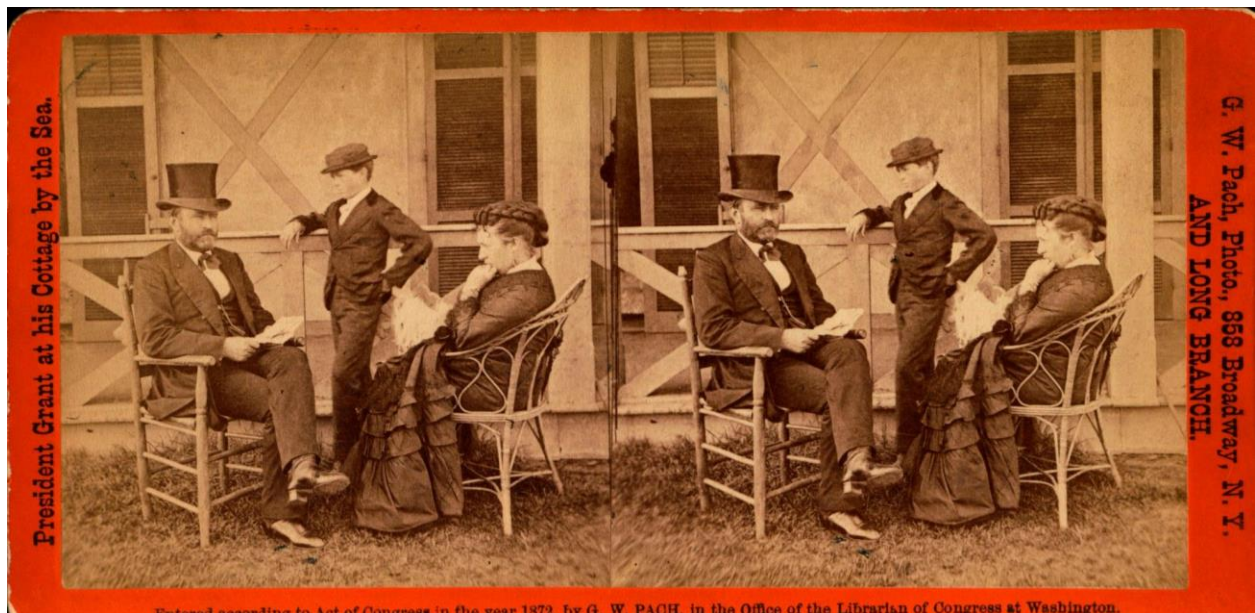
Takanassee Hotel, Long Branch, NJ (1908, obverse)



Takanassee Hotel, Long Branch, NJ (1908, reverse)



Regatta on the Shrewsbury River (1907)



President Ulysses S. Grant, stereo view card (1872)

Kurt W. Wagner is the University Librarian of Monmouth University and has been in the position since January 2016. Previously, he was Assistant Director for Library Information Systems at the Cheng Library at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. He brings 25 years of experience in academic libraries and higher education, including project management, work with high-performing, collaborative teams, and teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels at William Paterson, Rutgers University, and the Pratt Institute. Wagner is a member of the Executive Committee of VALE, New Jersey's academic library consortium and serves on the editorial board of the Atlantic Journal of Communication. Wagner was the recipient of the New Jersey Library Association's Technology Innovation Award in 2009 and 2013. Wagner holds a Master of Arts in Library Science (U. Arizona, 1993) and a Master of Arts in Communication (William Paterson University, 1998).