

NJS Presents**Research Notes**

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In this issue, we bring you the second edition of “Research Notes,” inaugurated to allow scholars to share their works in progress and solicit feedback from others in the NJ History community. All are welcome to contribute- simply send submissions for inclusion in future issues to the editor (mziobro@monmouth.edu).

Christ Church Parish Historian Robert M. Kelly, Jr. and local historian Rick Geffken are currently researching slaves owned by Christ Church Anglican parishioners in the colonial era. The topic begged exploration recently as the earliest Parish Registers were being analyzed. These Parish Registers contain the records of sacramental events, especially Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, since 1733. In the 1733-1775 time interval, there were about 1307 Baptisms recorded. Of these Baptisms, 90 have no entry in the “surname” field. This suggests some irregularity, but could have been a complete mystery except for the extremely helpful “notes” field, which describes some of those with no surname as “Negro servant.” It is fair to interpret “Negro servant” as slave, a word that is never used in the Register. Other “notes” field entries are more specific, saying, for example, “a negro belonging to Mr. Joseph Throckmorton.” The phrase “belonging to” is even clearer than “Negro servant of” in terms of relationship. Most of the surname-less entries also have blank “father” entries, and include notes that refer to “bastard children” and “mulattos.” This latter also suggests inappropriate relationships between white male heads of households and Negro women/servants/slaves. This is an underexplored aspect of our shared past which, while difficult, demands inclusion in the historical narrative. Those with information to share, questions, or comments can reach the Parish Historian at historian@christchurchshrewsbury.org.

Wall Township Mayor Timothy Farrell and Officer Mike Malone of the Wall Township Police Department, under the auspices of the Wall Township PBA Civic Association 501c3, are spearheading efforts to erect a 9-foot bronze statue of decorated WWII veteran Major General (MG) Harry J. Rockafeller II at police headquarters on Allaire Road. MG Rockafeller was born on December 23, 1916, in Asbury Park. A Jersey boy through and through, he was a member of the ROTC at Rutgers University and earned his commission in 1941. After graduation, according to the [Rutgers Oral History Archive](#), “Harry went on active duty in the Army with the 51st Armored Infantry Regiment, 4th Armored Division. He was a heavy weapons platoon leader. By July 1943, he was stationed in Liverpool, England, and then went to France soon after D-Day in 1944. He then became the company commander for B Company and later was promoted to Major after the liberation of Bastogne.” In his oral history, MG Rockafeller further discusses “his time overseas in WWII, missions such as going along the Siegfried Line and fighting across Germany. Soon after coming home, he was promoted to lieutenant colonel and served at Camp Blanding, FL. He then joined the Army Recruitment Command out of New York City. After being discharged, he worked for the Civil Service at Fort Monmouth, eventually retiring as a GS15, the highest rank in the Civil Service at the time. Simultaneously, he served in the Army Reserves and later became the Division Commander of the 78th Division, the New Jersey Army Reserve Division. In 1974, he retired as a Major General. MG Rockafeller also served on the Board of Trustees for the Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, NJ, for several decades...” The MG lived in Wall Township for over 70 years prior to his death on August 8, 2017 at 100 years of age. The memorial committee hopes that this statue will honor his memory and the memory of all our WWII Veterans. Those interested in learning more about the project, sharing information about MG Rockafeller, or donating funds can click [here](#).