

## **Records of the New Germantown Public School Library**

[1880-1970]

HUNTERDON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:**

Creator: The New Germantown Public School Library

Title: Records of the New Germantown Public School Library

Collection Number: 78

Accession: Between 1970 and 1982, from Norman C. Wittwer, former President of the Hunterdon County Historical Society

Date of Process: September 2009

Volume: 1.5 linear feet in 1 container

Restrictions: None

Access: During open library hours of the Society (12 PM to 4 PM every Thursday; 10 AM to 4 PM every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month; and by appointment.)

Abstract: This collection comprises records regarding the New Germantown Public School Library's book holdings and circulation, as well as financial and organizational information. Located in the rural Tewksbury Township, New Jersey village renamed Oldwick in 1918, the library played an important role in the community for nearly a century. The collection is particularly rich in details concerning the titles and genres commonly read in the first half of the twentieth century and the overall history of Hunterdon County library service.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL NOTES:**

According to materials found within the collection, the New Germantown Public School Library was founded by teacher Edward Park in 1880. It was located on the second floor of Main Street's Barnet Hall and was open to the public for one hour a week. The library closed its bank account in 1956 when the renovated building opened as The Oldwick Community Center, and its book collection was donated to various people and organizations in 1970.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT:**

The Records of the New Germantown Public School Library collection consists of eight folders of handwritten or typed materials and four record books, offering researchers significant historical insight into how the library functioned and which books were made available to and borrowed by its patrons.

## **ARRANGEMENT NOTE:**

All documents were transferred into acid-free folders and arranged chronologically within subject designations. Undated materials in folders are located behind dated materials, which are ordered from earliest to latest date. Two record books were wrapped in archival paper for preservation purposes.

<b>Box/Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1.1	<p><b>Book Catalogue (by Acquisition, 1880-1970)</b></p> <p>One large, handwritten record book containing the titles and authors of the library's collection of 1,709 books in order of acquisition, as well as two pages of patron names alongside the books they borrowed.</p>
1.2	<p><b>Book Catalogue (Alphabetical, 1880-1970)</b></p> <p>One tall, handwritten record book containing the library's book collection alphabetized by the first letter of the book title and listing authors and catalog numbers.</p>
1.3	<p><b>Ledger Book (Financial, 1896-1937)</b></p> <p>One tall, handwritten ledger book containing 15 pages of detailed financial information.</p>
1.4	<p><b>Record Book (Circulation, 1922-1970)</b></p> <p>One handwritten record book of approximately 155 pages listing the circulation records of the library primarily by patron name and catalog number.</p>
1.5	<p><b>Record Book (1928-1947)</b></p> <p>One small booklet containing: lists of librarian names; 1935 library committee minutes discussing the extension of library hours; account information of library payments to the PTA from 1928-1942, disbursements from 1933-1942, and receipts for fines and lost books from 1933-1946.</p>
1.6	<p><b>Library Bank Account Information (1929-1956)</b></p> <p>One 1929-1956 passbook issued by the Irving Savings Bank of New York City, one 1954 signature card, one 1954 letter and two 1956 letters from the bank to</p>

Marion C. Waldron regarding closing the New Germantown Special Library Fund Association account, and one undated scrap paper stating the library accounts were closed out when the school became a community center.

1.7 **Book Purchase Invoices from The Baker & Taylor Co. (1930)**

Two 1930 invoices for a total of 25 books and 200 book covers.

1.8 **Book Catalogue and Bookplate (Undated)**

One bookplate listing the rules of usage for the collection and one printed catalogue of books alphabetized by the first letter of the title.

1.9 **Library Supply Records (1947)**

Two 1947 handwritten order lists for items including catalogue cards, bottles of glue, and card boxes.

1.10 **Expression of Thanks from the Clinton Historical Museum (1970)**

One 1970 expression of thanks from the Clinton Historical Museum recognizing Marion and Helen Waldron for their library book donation and including a brief history of the Red Mill in Clinton, New Jersey.

1.11 **Obituary of First Hunterdon County Library Librarian, Elizabeth Thornton Turner (1970)**

One 1970 newspaper clipping from *The Democrat* detailing the accomplishments of Elizabeth Thornton Turner, librarian of the Hunterdon County Library from 1928 to 1941.

1.12 **Reports on the History of Oldwick Library Service (1970)**

One two-page, typed report on the library's history; one piece of scrap paper containing brief handwritten information on the 1880 foundation of the library; one two-page, typed 1970 letter from Super. Lib. Asst. Chester F. Piell of the Hunterdon County Library to Helen Waldron of Oldwick regarding her inquiry concerning county library service to Oldwick and discussing in detail bookmobile service and circulation totals from 1953 to 1969, as well as the book collection formerly kept in Farley's general store in Mountainville.