

ATLANTIC COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM/REFERENCE SERVICES  
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(609) 625-2776 EXT. 6310

## April - May 2014 eNewsletter

### Researching Our County Seat

*Mays Landing, the historic and picturesque center of Hamilton Township and the seat of Atlantic County, has a rich history going back many years.*

Here are some of the interesting facts and places connected with the history of Mays Landing:

- The original inhabitants of the area were Native Americans of the Lenni-Lenape tribe who had a network of trails throughout South Jersey.
- Mays Landing was named after George May, who settled in the area in 1760. He was a blacksmith who also built several ocean-going ships and held a large portion of land in the area.
- Mays Landing became the seat of Atlantic County in 1837, the same year the county was founded after its separation from Gloucester County. A courthouse was built the following year in 1838, and the building is still in use today!

**The statue of a Lenni-Lenape Indian chief that stands tall in front of the courthouse was created by William Boyer in 1981.**

- A railroad once ran through town and the remnants of Mays Landing's train station can be seen today under the US 40 overpass just off of Main Street.
- Gaskill Park, just outside of the Mays Landing Branch, was once the site of a deep-water port during the Revolutionary War period.
- Captain John Pennington had a schooner built for him named License, which carried sugar up the Great Egg Harbor River to a storage spot near Babcock Creek at the foot of a hill. This storage spot came to be known as Sugar Hill. This is how the Inn at Sugar Hill, the beautiful and well-known dining establishment on the Great Egg Harbor River in Mays Landing, got its name.



**For questions about items featured in this eNewsletter,  
call the Reference Center at (609) 625-2776, ext. 6310.**

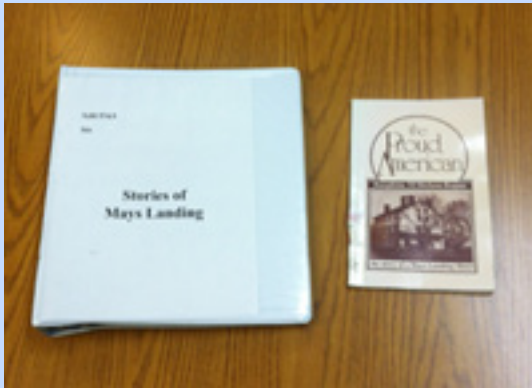
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Stop in the Reference Center and browse the following resources to find out more about the interesting history of our county seat:

## Books

### *Mays Landing Historic District*

This two-volume book provides maps and descriptions of the numerous properties comprising the historic district of Mays Landing. Learn about the histories behind many of the wonderful old structures dotting the landscape of our county seat!



### *Stories of Mays Landing*

A series of articles appearing in South Jersey Magazine in 1981-1983 presents a history of Mays Landing from the days of the Lenni-Lenape tribe that once inhabited the area, through the settlement and development of the town itself. Find out about the industries that once existed in town, as well as hotels, churches, and schools. Genealogic information about a number of local families is also given.

### *The Proud American: The Story of a Mays Landing Hotel*

(Kapus, Josephine DiStefano. Vineland, N.J. : Standard Pub. Co., c1982.)

Did you know that the white stucco building that houses the administrative offices of the Atlantic County Library System was once a hotel? Delve into the history of this historic site and how its history intertwined with that of Mays Landing from 1839 when the hotel was first built right up to the early 1980s when it became a part of the Mays Landing branch of our County Library! A picture of this building is shown on the previous page.

## Vertical File

We also have a large vertical file of newspaper clippings, books, pamphlets, and other materials detailing the history of Mays Landing. Find out about the history of this area in general as well as specific information on:

- Famous people
- Histories of buildings such as the courthouse/jail
- Lake Lenape and Gaskill Park
- Maps

## Online Resources

Check out our digitized collection of the Mays Landing Record newspaper dating from 1877-1907 at [www.atlanticlibrary.org](http://www.atlanticlibrary.org), and get a window into what was newsworthy in our county seat in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The newspapers can be found under Resources by clicking on Historical Resources. On this same page, view digitized wills and immigration records kept by the offices of Atlantic County Government here in Mays Landing.

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