New Jersey and The Great War

Conference Speakers


Howard Elliott Bartholf is a retired industrial sales engineer with over 43 years in the industrial, municipal and military marketplaces. He attended Bergen Community College and Virginia Commonwealth University and entered the United States Army in September 1965 where he served until 1971. His assignments included Fort Dix New Jersey, Fort Benjamin Harrison Indiana, Fort Huachuca Arizona, Fort Eustis Virginia and a year in the Republic of South Vietnam. While in Vietnam he was assigned to the 459th Signal Battalion, 21st Signal Group, 1st Signal Brigade. His decorations include the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and the Meritorious Unit Citation. He also holds the New Jersey Meritorious Service Medal and the New Jersey Vietnam Service Medal as well as other Civic and fraternal awards. Bartholf is also a member and holder of the Order of the Silver Rose, which honors Vietnam Veterans exposed to and affected by Agent Orange. In October 2009, Bartholf was awarded the Bronze Order of Mercury by the United States Army Signal Corps Regimental Association and made an Honorary Member of the Regiment by order of the Secretary of the Army. He is a member of the Army Historical Foundation, and maintains membership in the International Naval Research Organization (INRO), the Navy League, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the 459th Signal Battalion Association. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the 1st Signal Brigade Association and is a Charter Member of the National Museum of the United States Army. Bartholf served for six years as President of the battleship U.S.S. South Dakota Second Generation Group. He is a published author with articles appearing in *Vietnam Magazine* and in *On Point* the Journal of the Army Historical Foundation. Bartholf is also an Ordained Baptist Deacon. He resides in Richmond, Virginia with his wife Janet C. Bartholf and is the proud father of Stephen Howard Bartholf, CW4 Ryan Elliott Bartholf, U.S. Army, and PO2 Scott Varian Bartholf, Aviation Ordnanceman, U.S. Navy.

Joseph G. Bilby received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from Seton Hall University and served as a lieutenant in the First Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1966-1967. Bilby is the part-time assistant curator of the New Jersey National Guard and Militia Museum in Sea Girt. He is also a freelance writer and historical consultant who has been a guest curator for several museum exhibits. He was publications editor for the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee and is the author, editor or co-author of twenty-one books and over 400 articles on New Jersey
history, folklore, and military history. Two of his titles are on the New Jersey Historical Commission’s “101 Great New Jersey Books” list. His latest publications are *Submarine Warfare Along the New Jersey Shore* and *New Jersey: A Military History*. Bilby has received the Jane Clayton award for contributions to Monmouth County history as well as an award from the New Jersey Historical Commission for his contributions to the state’s military history.

**Flora Boros** is the assistant curator of exhibitions and public services assistant at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. She has a M.Sc. in museum ethnography and material anthropology from the University of Oxford. She has worked on exhibitions for the Rubin Museum of Art, City Lore for El Museo del Barrio, American History Workshop for the New York Historical Society, the Pitt Rivers Museum, and the J. Paul Getty Villa Museum. She is a member of the American Alliance of Museums, and is the co-author of “Exhibitions in Archives & Manuscript Repositories” in *Exhibits in Archives & Special Collections Libraries* (2013).

**Connie Goddard** is a writer and historian of education with a Ph.D. (2005) from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has taught history and composition at Mercer County Community College, The College of New Jersey, and two state prisons. She has also taught in Chicago and in Romania. Her scholarly interests focus on schooling in colonial America and during the Progressive Era. Currently, she is writing about Chicago’s eminent educator and Dewey colleague Ella Flagg Young.

**Vivian Davis** graduated with a B.A. in American studies at Ramapo College and acquired her teacher’s certification in social studies soon thereafter. Although she lives in New Jersey, she has been working in the museum field in New York City for over ten years. Past employment in the education departments at the National Park Service and the Van Cortlandt House Museum helped her to hone her skills. She is presently the educator at the Bronx County Historical Society and is pursuing her M.A. in American History through the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Adams State University. She is an avid historical reenactor whose passion is to bring history to life through interpretation and material culture.

**Rachael Goldberg** is the coordinator of museum collections and exhibits at Liberty Hall Museum. Goldberg was originally hired as a museum educator for the museum to conduct daily public tours, work with school children and participate in special events. After working as a museum educator for a year she was promoted to the coordinator of museum collections and exhibits. Her role was to begin the process of inventing the museum’s collection and for the past eight years she has been cataloging the collection at the museum. She oversees the museum’s archival building and creates exhibits. Goldberg has a B.A. in history and political science from the University of Rhode Island as well as an M.A. in American History from Monmouth University. In 2013 she completed Drew University’s historic preservation certificate program.

**Robert Foster** is a founding member of the Hoboken Historical Museum and has been its executive director since 1998. The Museum moved into its permanent home in 2001, and has since presented more than 30 exhibitions. Foster has worked on most of the exhibits including, the current one on World War I. He develops programming for each exhibit including an 18-part lecture series for the current World War I exhibit.
Jennifer Harmsen holds a B.A. in communications from Northwestern University and holds an M.A in education and history from Rutgers; and in education leadership from Seton Hall University. She has been a featured speaker at for the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission; Bergen County Historical Society; Medical History Society of New Jersey; and a moderator for the Joint Atlantic Seminar for the History of Medicine (Yale University School of Medicine). At these and other venues throughout New Jersey Ms. Harmsen discusses her paper, *Death Unspoken: The Impact of the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in New Jersey*. Ms. Harmsen, is an educator with over twenty-five years of experience and teaches seventh graders ancient history.

Timothy Hart is the Ocean County historian and is the division director of the Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission. He is an active participant in state and national historical organizations including the League of Historical Societies of NJ, Advocates for NJ History, the South Jersey Cultural Alliance, the NJ Association of Cultural and Heritage and NJCARR. He is the former New Jersey captain for the American Association of State and Local History and served on the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums board. Hart has more than 40 years of civic engagement experience and has served as the Stafford Township historian, and on the Township’s historic preservation commission, school board, planning board, environmental commission and chamber of commerce. He is a member of the New Jersey Bar and is a graduate of Rutgers Law School and Georgetown University.

Jason Huggan is the cultural resource manager and garrison archaeologist for Picatinny Arsenal. He works within the Environmental Affairs Division of Public Works. He has been with Picatinny Arsenal for nine years. Prior to working at Picatinny Arsenal he held similar positions at Fort Lee, V.A. and Fort Irwin, C.A. Huggan holds an M.A. in Archaeology and Heritage from the University of Leicester, UK and has worked in over fifteen states across the continental U.S. with over ten years of experience in cultural resource management.

Jonathan Lurie is a professor of history emeritus and formerly an academic integrity officer at Rutgers University, Newark. Lurie had been a member of the history department since 1969 where he taught for forty years. His books include: *The Chicago Board of Trade, Law and The Nation, Arming Military Justice, Pursuing Military Justice, The Slaughterhouse Cases, Military Justice in America*, and *The Chase Court*. His biography of William Howard Taft was published by Cambridge University Press in 2012. Lurie’s book on the Supreme Court and military justice was published in 2013 and he has just completed a manuscript for the University of South Carolina Press on the Taft Court (1921-1930). Lurie’s fields of interest comprise legal history, military justice, constitutional law and history, and the Civil War and Reconstruction Eras. *The Slaughterhouse Cases* received the Scribes award in 2003 as the best book written on law for that year. In 2005, Lurie served as a Fulbright Lecturer at Uppsala University Law School in Sweden. Lurie was the visiting professor of law at West Point in 1994-1995 and has lectured on several occasions at the United States Supreme Court.

Maxine Lurie holds a B.A. from Alfred University, an M.A. from the University of Rochester, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. She has taught at Marquette University, Rutgers University, and Seton Hall University (from 1993 to 2010). An Early American historian, she has taught and written about New Jersey history for twenty-seven years. Although retired she continues to teach, is actively involved in several research projects, and in the history community in New Jersey. She is the author of a number of scholarly articles in *New Jersey History, The*
Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography and other publications, encyclopedia entries in American National Biography and other works. Professor Lurie is the co-editor of The Minutes of the East Jersey Board of Proprietors (1985) v. 4; editor of The New Jersey Anthology (first edition 1994, 2nd edition 2010); and co-editor-in-chief with Marc Mappen of The Encyclopedia of New Jersey (2004). She has written chapters, all on New Jersey, for The Uniting States: The Story of Statehood for the Fifty United States (2005), New Jersey in the American Revolution (2005), and Constructing Early Modern Empires: Proprietary Ventures in the Atlantic World, 1500-1750 (2007). She also worked with Peter Wacker and Michael Siegel on Mapping New Jersey (2009); and most recently with Richard Veit editing New Jersey: A History of the Garden State (2012). She and Veit are now working on an illustrated history of New Jersey. Lurie is chair of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, chair of the New Jersey Historical Commission and also of its 350th Anniversary Committee, and is a member of the State Historic Records Advisory Board. She served on the Executive Committee of the Mid Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, the Teaching Division of the American Historical Association, and was chair of the AHA-OAH Committee on Part Time/Adjunct Faculty. Lurie has received several awards including, in 1997 the Richard J. Hughes award from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Douglas McVarish is a senior historic preservation specialist in the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and a member of the New Jersey World War I Commemoration Committee. As a result of that activity he has become fascinated with World War commemoration monuments and has photographed and studied the history of many of them. He is also preparing National Register of Historic Places documentation for several New Jersey monuments. McVarish holds a B.A. in American studies from Hampshire College, and graduate degrees in planning and historic preservation from the Universities of Virginia and Vermont.

Holly Metz has been researching and writing about Hoboken's history for 25 years. Her 2012 book, Killing the Poormaster: A Saga of Poverty, Corruption and Murder in the Great Depression, was about a Hoboken crime that put the nation's welfare system on trial. The book was awarded the Historical Commission's Richard P. McCormick Prize. Metz often works with the Hoboken Historical Museum to co-curate exhibits, including "World War I Centennial, 1917-2017: Heaven, Hell, or Hoboken."

Mark Nonestied is a division head with the Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage and has worked for the department since 1991. He oversees both the East Jersey Old Town Village and Cornelius Low House Museum. Mr. Nonestied has lectured and written on a number of topics related to New Jersey and Middlesex County history. He is the co-author of New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones: History in the Landscape. The publication received the 2010 New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Award in the non-fiction scholarly category.

Caryn Radick is digital archivist at Rutgers University, New Brunswick. She has an M.L.I.S. from Rutgers University and an M.A. in Victorian Literature from the University of Nottingham. As Rutgers’ digital archivist, she was awarded a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission to digitize and microfilm correspondence and other papers from the Rutgers College War Service Bureau collection. She is an active member of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and Society of American Archivists.
Jeff Ranu is the armament research, development, and engineering center historian and project officer at Picatinny Arsenal. He holds an M.A. in both engineering and history, as well as graduate certification in ordnance engineering. Ranu has eighteen years of experience at the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) as an engineer and an engineering team leader. He became the ARDEC historian in January 2017.

George Robb is a professor of modern history at the William Paterson University of New Jersey. He received his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in 1990. A former Fulbright Scholar, he teaches courses on social and cultural history. Robb has a longstanding interest in the history of World War I. He is the author of British Culture and the First World War and is currently researching a book on Newark and World War I. Robb is an executive board member of the Newark History Society and has recently curated an exhibit on the Great War at the Newark Public Library.

Tyler Rudd Putman is a Ph.D. candidate in the History of American Civilization program in the department of history at the University of Delaware. He is the lead gallery educator at the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia.

Steve Santucci has been a high school history and social studies teacher for the past 20 years. He teaches at West Morris Mendham High School in Mendham New Jersey. Santucci is a Revolutionary War reenactor of the 2nd New Jersey Regiment, a Helm’s Company for the past 17 years. He volunteers at Morristown National Historical Park, and occasionally at Sandy Hook Light House & Fort Hancock. His history interests include the Colonial Period of North America, The Gilded Age, WWI and WWII. He was a teacher to ranger to teacher at Morristown National Historical Park from 2011 - 2012 and worked with the Monmouth University Archeological Field School from 2015 - 2017.

Robert F. von Bargen is a Colonel and retired from the U.S. Air Force. He is the president of the Armed Forces Heritage Museum. He joined the Coast Guard Reserve while in high school and transferred to the Air Force Reserve while attending Queens College of the City of New York. He was commissioned from the AFROTC program and served over 35 years of active and reserve duty. Von Bargen served as an air base squadron Commander and in Homeland Security staff assignments. He was an Air Reserve Technician at the Greater Pittsburgh Airport before being assigned to McGuire Air Force Base from 1969 until 1983. He was among the cadre of McGuire Foundation members who planned and built Starlifter Memorial Park at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst. He was a director at the Air Victory Museum and is a member of the Burlington County Historians Roundtable. In the business world he held sales management and product marketing positions before becoming director of Training at FMC Corporation - a Fortune 100 company

Richard Veit is professor of anthropology and chair of the department of history and anthropology at Monmouth University. Veit is a North American historical archaeologist whose research focuses on the Middle Atlantic Region between the late 17th and early 19th centuries. He has authored or co-authored numerous articles and reviews and six books including Digging New Jersey’s Past: Historical Archaeology in the Garden State, New Jersey Cemeteries and Tombstones History in the Landscape, and New Jersey: A History of the Garden State. In 2007 he was the recipient of Monmouth University’s distinguished teacher award. He regularly
presents on topics relating to historical archaeology and New Jersey history and has been a TED speaker.

**Bob Vietrogoski** is the head of Special Collections in the History of Medicine, George F. Smith Library of the Health Sciences, Rutgers University Libraries. Located in Newark on the Rutgers Campus of Biomedical and Health Sciences, Special Collections is the only compilation in the state entirely devoted to providing resources in the history of medicine in New Jersey. Vietrogoski regularly presents on the history of medicine, medical institutions and organizations, and medical education in New Jersey. He resides in West Orange, near the zoo.

**Jeanne M. Vloyanetes** is a faculty member at Brookdale Community College. From 1983-2016 she was a public services librarian in Brookdale’s Bankier Library where she managed the history, college archives, and New Jersey collections. Since September 2016 she has been a professor in Brookdale’s History Department. In 1983 she received a M.L.S. from Rutgers. In 2011 she received an M.A. in history from Monmouth University. Her graduate thesis at Monmouth was titled *A Little Budapest on the Arthur Kill and Raritan Bay: The Hungarians of Perth Amboy, New Jersey*. While researching her thesis she first learned about Father Francis Gross and Our Lady of Hungary Church. Encouraged by her advisor, Dr. Veit, she has further researched the pursue Father Gross story which will be presented at this conference.

**Jaclyn Wood** is the community engagement coordinator at the Jay and Linda Grunin Center for the Arts at Ocean County College. She works to coordinate programs that educate, entertain and enlighten students to increase their participation in the arts. She coordinates the Schools n’ Stage program, Ocean County Teen Arts, and master classes and workshops for high school and college students. A graduate of the Cooperstown Graduate Program with an M.A. in history museum studies, Jaclyn worked in museum education at the Independence Seaport Museum and at Tuckerton Seaport & Baymen’s Museum. She directed the Jersey Shore Folklife Center for eleven years, which operated out of the Tuckerton Seaport.

**Nicholas Wood** is a program development specialist for the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission. He is responsible for administering the regrant programs, database management, assisting with the Teen Arts Festival and other programs, and providing direct technical assistance. He is a graduate of the University of Maine and the Cooperstown Graduate Program. He currently serves as the president of the New Jersey Association of Museums.

**Melissa Ziobro** serves on the executive board of oral history in the Mid-Atlantic Region and as the editor for *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, a joint venture of the New Jersey Historical Commission, Rutgers University Libraries, and Monmouth University. She has worked with public history organizations such as the Parker Homestead - 1665, Monmouth County Archives, Monmouth County Park System, Monmouth County Historical Association, Monmouth County Historical Commission, Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage, National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum and more. She worked as a command historian at the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, Fort Monmouth, NJ from 2004-2011. Her publications include a recent article, on *Colonel William Blair, Father of American Aircraft Detection Radar* in *On Point: The Journal of Army History.*
John Zinn  John Zinn is an independent historian with special interest in New Jersey military history and the history of baseball. He is the author of four books including a history of a New Jersey Civil War regiment (the 33rd NJ) and the first full-length biography of the Brooklyn Dodgers owner, Charles Ebbets, to be published in the first quarter of 2018. Zinn is the chairman of the board of the New Jersey Historical Society and chaired New Jersey's committee on the recent Civil War Sesquicentennial. He is a guest curator at Morven Museum and Gardens for Cradle of the National Pastime: New Jersey Baseball 1855 to 1880, an exhibit that will open in 2018 and for which he is writing a companion book. Zinn holds a B.A. and M.B.A. degrees from Rutgers University and is a Vietnam Wat veteran.