

Views From The Veranda

“The Changing Role of Women After the Civil War” by Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps

Monday, February 15th at 8pm

Montclair Women's Club~82 Union Street~Montclair, NJ

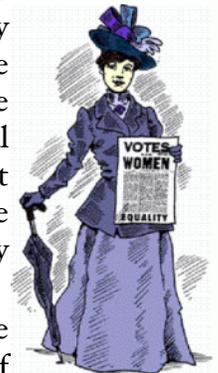
When the nineteenth century began, a woman was not permitted to vote or hold office; she had few rights to her own property or earnings; she could not take custody of her children if she divorced; she did not have access to a higher education. In the 1830s, thousands of women were involved in the movement to abolish slavery. While working to secure freedom for African Americans, these women began to see legal similarities between their situation and that of enslaved black men and women. Out of the abolitionist movement, feminism was born, and many women involved in the early abolitionist movement went on to become important leaders in the early women's rights and suffrage movements.

The women's rights movement which had been gathering a following before the American Civil War, resumed after the war's conclusion. Although the majority of women were forced to return to their traditional domestic roles, this period marked a significant turning point in women's history. The image of female empowerment in wartime brought the movement new energy. The war had given women a chance to control their own lives, to earn their own money, to manage their own finances, to be independent. Some women were no longer willing to complacently fill the roles they had occupied before the war. Women entered paid employment in government service, industry and public schools in significantly greater numbers than previously.



The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter is pleased to present Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps, who throughout her career, has been a leader devoted to public service. She is President and CEO of *1804 Consultants*, an organization dedicated to the advancement of educational and cultural organizations. She most recently served as President and CEO of the New Jersey Historical Society. Dr. Epps earned her Bachelor's Degree from Douglass College, Rutgers University, her Master's from Seton Hall University, and completed her doctoral program at Drew University.

Come learn more and be enlightened about “*the Changing Role of Women after the Civil War*” on February 15th at 8pm.



Meetings of The Victorian Society in America, Northern New Jersey Chapter are normally held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 8pm at the Montclair Women's Club 82 Union Street - Montclair, Nj. Meetings are free for members - Non-members \$5 - Yearly membership only \$25! If your last name begins with the letters **A, B, C & D**, please bring refreshments to the next meeting. Any questions please contact Christina at 973-744-5916 or email Christina.mayer@fmglobal.com.





Greetings From the President

Dear Members:

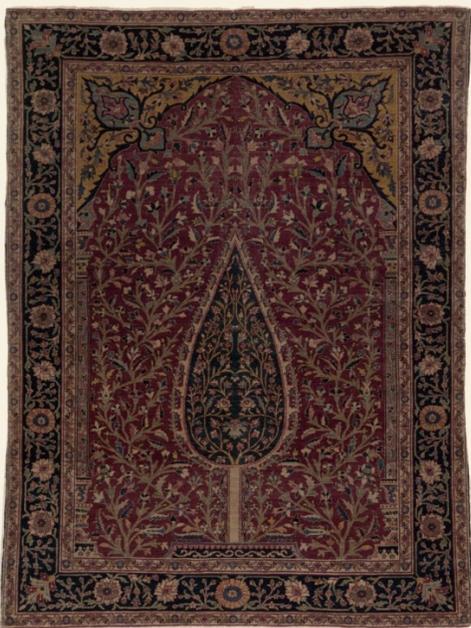
I wish to thank all of you that braved the snow flurries and frigid temperatures to attend the January meeting. The meeting was well worth the trouble. Ulysses Dietz enlightened us by explaining that jewelry worn as body adornment (along with ceramics and textiles) is known throughout all cultures of human history. Originally only afforded by royalty or the rich, Mr. Dietz showed us how the trend to supply jewelry to the middle class began. Fine jewelry and its middle class affordable interpretation came about in the 19th century as Newark was the jewelry making capital of the country. Sadly, none of these manufacturers exist in Newark today. I plan on going to the Newark Museum to see his latest exhibit: "Jewelry: From Pearls to Platinum to Plastic."

Our February speaker will be Dr. Linda Caldwell Epps who has a countless list of achievements in teaching and management. Most recently she was the CEO and President of the New Jersey Historical Society. I'm sure she will bring her passion as an educator to her lecture on the changing role of women after the Civil War, which will include the suffragette movement. You won't want to miss it.

*The VSANNJ Spring bus trip will be heading to Connecticut. We'll keep you posted. Have a wonderful and joyful *Valentine's Day!**

-Jane 

"Antique Carpets Through the Eyes of W. Parson Todd"



Tabriz Cypress Tree Carpet, Isfahan late 19th century. Photo credit Stan Freeny

MacCulloch Hall Historical Museum presents an exhibition "*Antique Carpets Through the Eyes of W. Parsons Todd,*" which features seventeen rarely seen antique carpets, on view **now through April 10th, 2016.**

MacCulloch Hall, a Federal style mansion located in Morristown, NJ was built in 1810. It now houses nine period rooms and three exhibition galleries that change year round.

W. Parsons Todd (1877-1976), founded MacCulloch Hall Historical Museum in 1950 to showcase the fine and decorative arts he favored and to celebrate Morristown's rich history. Todd collected American and European furniture, carpets from the Middle East and China, presidential china, silver, and the work of political cartoonist *Thomas Nast (1840-1902)*, who once lived across the street from MacCulloch Hall.

For more info and related special events, please visit www.maccullochball.org or call 973-538-2404.

In the Limeslight: Susan Brownell Anthony (1820-1906)



We all know Susan B. Anthony as an American social reformer and feminist who played a pivotal role in the women's suffrage movement. The following are some interesting factoids** concerning this remarkable Victorian era woman:

- Born into a Quaker family committed to social equality, she collected petitions against slavery as part of organized resistance to the newly established *gag rule* that prohibited anti-slavery petitions in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1837 when she was just 16.
- She was also part of the *Underground Railroad*. An entry in her diary in 1861 read, "*Fitted out a fugitive slave for Canada with the help of Harriet Tubman.*"
- Temperance was also very much a women's rights issue at that time because of laws that gave husbands complete control of the family and its finances. A woman with a drunken husband had little legal recourse even if his alcoholism left the family destitute and he was abusive to her and their children. If she obtained a divorce, which was difficult to do, he could easily end up with guardianship of the children. Anthony gave her first public speech in 1849 for the *Daughters of Temperance*.
- In 1872, Anthony was arrested for voting in her hometown of Rochester, New York, and convicted in a widely publicized trial. Although she refused to pay the fine, the authorities declined to take further action.
- In 1878, Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton arranged for Congress to be presented with an amendment giving women the right to vote. Popularly known as the Anthony Amendment and introduced by Sen. Aaron A. Sargent (R-CA), it became the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920.
- Anthony traveled extensively in support of women's suffrage, giving as many as 75 to 100 speeches per year and working on many state campaigns as well as internationally.
- Anthony's commitment to the movement, her spartan lifestyle, and the fact that she did not seek personal financial gain, made her an effective fund-raiser and won her the admiration of many who did not agree with her goals. She used her speaking fees to fund both the National Women Suffrage Association and its successor, the National American Women Suffrage Association.



The house that Susan B. Anthony shared with her sister in Rochester. She was arrested here for voting.

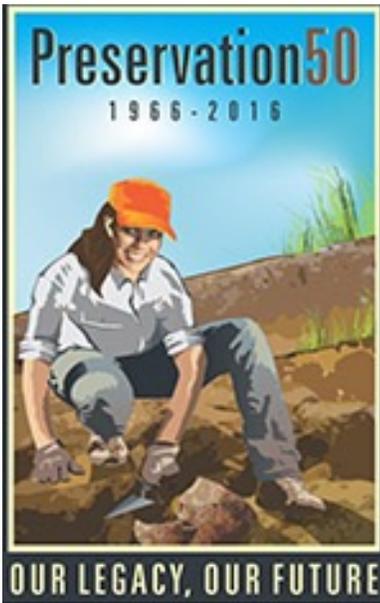
• When she first began campaigning for women's rights, Anthony was harshly ridiculed and accused of trying to destroy the institution of marriage. However, public perception of her changed radically during her lifetime. Her 80th birthday was celebrated in the White House at the invitation of President William McKinley. She became the first non-fictional woman to be depicted on U.S. coinage when her portrait appeared on the 1979 dollar coin.

• "*By the end of the Civil War,*" according to historian Ann D. Gordon, "*Susan B. Anthony occupied new social and political territory. She was emerging on the national scene as a female leader, something new in American history, and she did so as a single woman in a culture that perceived the spinster as anomalous and unguarded ... By the 1880s, she was among the senior political figures in the United States.*"

**see wikipedia article on Susan B. Anthony



Preservation Tidings

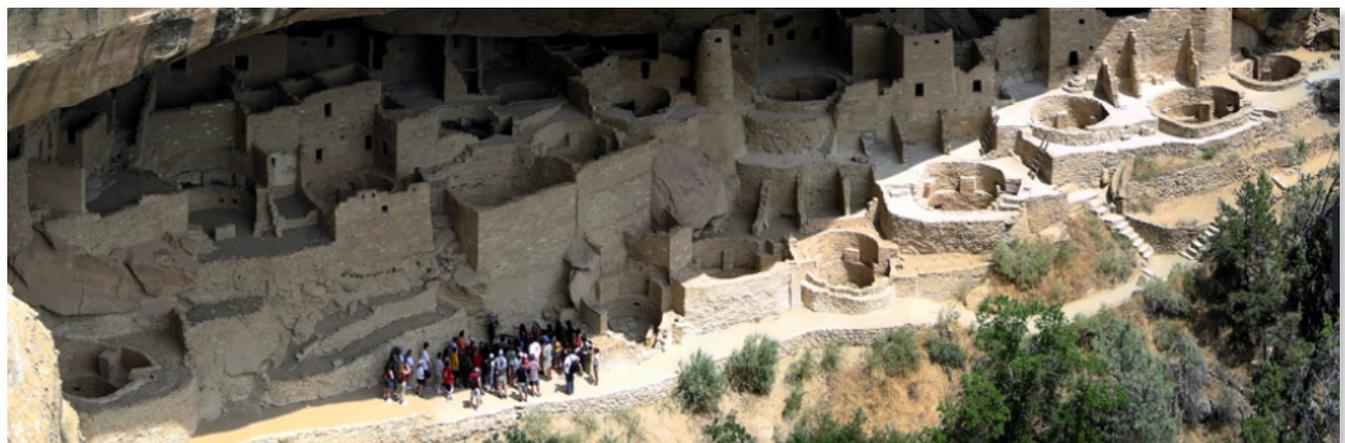


The National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 officially recognized the value of historic preservation and created the federal framework to support the preservation and protection of the irreplaceable buildings, landscapes and archeology in communities across the United States. This was enacted after the destruction of numerous buildings and sites in the years following World War II.

Preservation50 is the United States' effort to celebrate, learn from and leverage the NHPA's first five decades to assure historic preservation's vibrant future in America. This logo shows a woman digging at an excavation.

Archaeological sites have important stories to tell that supplement available written records, as do more obvious and visible historic buildings and cultural landscape features. The NHPA recognizes the importance of discovering, preserving, and learning from the buried remnants of societies that came before us. Archaeological resources that contribute to our understanding of the past – whether from the last century or thousands of years ago – share the same protections as above-ground resources.

For more information on the many events and resources to celebrate the NHPA itself becoming historic, please visit the **Preservation50** website at www.preservation50.org. The photo below from their homepage shows a group of tourists at an ancient excavation site.



THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA

www.VictorianSociety.org

Northern NJ Chapter

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The VSANNJ is part of the only national non-profit organization committed to historic preservation, protection, understanding, education, and enjoyment of our nineteenth century heritage.

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82 Union Street is
handicap accessible