

NEW

THE BOOKMARK

EDITION 2

MAR. 2023

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Perth Amboy's Trailblazing Women Journalists



Carolyn Maxwell,
Self-Publisher, Editor
Amboy Guardian 2011-2022



Etta Krogh, Self-Publisher, Editor
of Toiletty: The Home Advocate
published from 1903-1906
flanked by her daughters Irene,
left, Henrietta, right and Edna,
extreme right



Katherine Massopust,
Editorials, Layout, Reporter



Etta Krogh (c) 1885

March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month Activities:

- Visit the library to check out books about Women's History.
- Get free nutrition tips and supplies for expecting mothers on March 18.
- Come to the March 25 Women's History event at the library
- Read a biography about a successful woman
- Watch a documentary about Women's Rights
- Invite children to a Women's History Storytime with Ms. Tiff in the Children's Library

**Etta Krogh, Publisher/Editor
Toilettey: The Home Advocate
We honor Etta Krogh for her courageous
advocacy for women's rights.**

PERTH AMBOY –Edna Krogh was a staunch community activist before women had a voice. She published her own magazine and it was said that she was a woman dedicated to her community and to the welfare of women everywhere.

In 1903 with the help of her daughters she founded Toilettey-The Home Advocate the first and only women's magazine ever published in Perth Amboy. It reflected much of Mrs. Krogh's interests and enthusiasm. Prominent civic figures contributed articles. Rev. J.M. McNulty of Woodbridge wrote "The Curfew Bell" where he agitated for the enactment of a curfew law because of young children frequenting the streets until late at night becoming initiated into all kinds of wickedness. "There's Trouble in River City"

THE MUD PROBLEM

"How can any citizen have the heart to talk Perth Amboy when Smith Street is under a river of mud several inches deep after every rain or thaw?" She enlisted the aid of the Rev. Dr. Harlan G Mendenhall, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church to contribute an article on "Good Streets" In which he said that "a city that is struggling along through mud which is the horror of the pedestrian and the despair of the coachman is much like a man who is run down at the heels and who needs either a good shoemaker or more pride in himself"

SALOONS

Mrs. Krogh was an ardent campaigner against having open saloons on Sunday. She appealed to Mayor H Martyn Brace in articles on this subject. She acknowledged the saloons were officially closed on Sunday but she alerted readers to the fact that the side doors were active and urged them to listen to the activity in the establishment and to decide for themselves if the saloon was open or not.

She, however, was willing to compromise and asked for a law that allowed the saloons to be open on Sunday but closed during morning and evening worship hours.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Mrs. Krogh deplored historic loss. She asked in 1904: "What is becoming of Perth Amboy's historic places?" She referred to the obliteration of the Long Ferry Tavern that took travelers to South Amboy and distinguished from the Tottenville Ferry, which of the two was considered the "short ferry". She deplored the destruction of the British Barracks, a Revolutionary War structure that was demolished to make room for the Perth Amboy Grammar School.

BEFORE WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION

Mrs. Krogh's voice was heard way before 1920 when women, at last, had the right to vote, and before such strong female voices were common. Nevertheless, Mrs. Krogh had the dedication of a crusader. Her efforts brought her wide respect.

SKIRTS

Mrs. Krogh wisely advocated for women to abandon the long trailing skirt in favor of the more practical ankle-length skirt to avoid having them pick up mud and dirt that would end up inside their homes! Long trailing skirts were also a terrible fire hazard as lighting was mostly by fire of one sort or another.

VARIETY

The magazine featured short stories, poetry household hints, fashions, a children's page, advice to the lovelorn, articles about civic faults, entertainment and advocacy for the cause of women.

UNSUSTAINABLE

Unfortunately the magazine lacked financial backing and she couldn't go on but despite its short life of three years, it left an imprint on the history of Perth Amby and a permanent home in the library's archives.

Carolyn Maxwell, Editor, Self-Publisher

The Amboy Guardian

It was 2011 and Bill George had been running the Amboy Beacon since its inception on Sept.8, 1993, covering issues in Perth Amboy, Woodbridge and the Middlesex County Bayshore. Bill would attend as many meetings in each town as possible. He was a great investigative reporter. Carolyn Maxwell worked with him. She sold ads and became the sales manager and his valued companion. She, like Bill, was a tireless supporter of the Beacon.

Bill had been practicing journalism since he produced a newspaper in middle school for his U.S. History class. He went on to win many journalism awards throughout the years, from Amboy Merchants Association, the Hall Ave Puerto Rican Cultural Festival Committee, and from the NJ Society of Professional Journalists for Distinguished Public Service. The Beacon was thriving, then tragedy struck. On February 17, 2011 Bill suddenly passed away . Devastating! What would become of the Amboy Beacon? No one could bear to see its demise. Hard decisions had to be made, legal issues needed to be addressed. What to do, who will do it? Compatible with the Beacon's mission, Carolyn Maxwell began her own newspaper, the Amboy Guardian, established on March 30, 2011.

Now here we have Carolyn with no journalism training or experience and with no financial backing. Nonetheless she did everything in her power to continue the important community service that a local newspaper provides, reporting on civic and social events, advertising for local businesses, advertising events for churches, clubs and the city. Many times she published articles gratis as a public service. Too many times the ads were not paid and if they were paid too many times not paid for on time, yet she endured as long as possible. Carolyn had the help of Katherine Massopust as layout, reporter, editorialist, and all around Tonto to Carolyn's Lone Ranger. Paul Wang served as photographer, Carolyn's cousin Tobin Maxwell helped with distribution. Many others helped along the way.

The sacrifices that Carolyn and Katherine have made to keep the Guardian afloat were massive and affected their ability to personally thrive. Their work was from the heart as advocates for Perth Amboy. Their commitment was for the cause of keeping the public informed. Sadly, like Etta Krogh's magazine, their enterprises could not be sustained. We mourn the loss of their publications and we honor them this Women's History Month for their endurance, sacrifice, commitment and courage.

Library Hours

Mon/Tue/Thu: 9AM-8PM

Wed/Fri: 9AM-5PM

Sat: 9AM-4PM

**Subscribe to our
Newsletter**

Volunteer with us!

Visit : **PAFPL.org/teens/volunteer-opportunities**

Opportunities are open to all ages

Interesting Fact

When the Trustees were looking for land to build the library, the Parker family offered a portion of their land for that purpose. Their property was where the Harbor Terrace is now, overlooking the waterfront. The Trustees declined the offer because of the flop houses, taverns and interesting characters who inhabited the "seedy" neighborhood.

THE MUSEUM PASS PROGRAM

This program is a service provided by the Friends of the Perth Amboy Free Public Library. It enables library patrons to visit the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, NYC, and the Thomas Edison Museum in Edison, NJ.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK SALE

The Brighton Ave. Teen Center
56 Brighton Ave., Perth Amboy

2nd and 4th Saturday of each month (w/exceptions) Check the Friend's Facebook page for weather -related closings.

Mar 11, 25	Sep 9, 23
Apr 8, 22	Oct 14
May 13	Nov 11
Jun 10, 24	Dec 16
Jul 8, 12	
Aug 12, 26	

Perth Amboy Free Public Library
196 Jefferson Street
Perth Amboy, NJ 08861
732-826-2600

March Events

Sat 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

- Tax Prep available: Call 732-826-2600 to make an appointment.

Sat.3/18, 11AM-2PM

- Maternity Health: An educational workshop for expecting mothers. Learn health tips for a healthy pregnancy. Free baby supplies and nutrition materials will be given to those that attend.

Sat.3/25, PM

- The 2nd annual Women's History Month Celebration: Inspirations from successful Perth Amboy women. Assemblywoman Yvonne Lopex, NJ State Trooper Sgt. Nydia Cubero, Councilwoman Rose B Morales, Perth Amboy Police Captain Michelle McKeon, NJ Spotlight Correspondent Raven Santana, Business Woman Rebecca Robles, ESQ.

Fri. 3/31

- Thomas Mundy Peterson Virtual Program with Gordon Bond: For more information, call 732-826-2600

Monthly Meet-ups

First Thursdays:

6pm: Readers By The Bay Book Club

Second Mondays:

3:30pm: The Library History Club

Second Saturdays:

1pm: Women Empowerment Group
(A Spanish program)

Third Tuesdays:

5-7pm: Crochet Class

6 pm: THE GREEN TEAM

Call Joel Rosa 732-826-2600

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME:

Miss Tiff says:

"All the time is Story Time!" Ask her to read you a book during your next visit!