

The Morris Jacob Herschlag-Kafka Collection

Finding Aid created by Malcolm J. Harris, 26 August 2015

Supervising Archivist: E.K. Adams

Storage: Archives Shelf 9.3 C, 9.4 C

Introduction:

The Morris Jacob Herschlag-Kafka Collection is a group of personal notes, written works, correspondences, community documents, and local New Brunswick history that was collected by Morris Kafka over the past 30 years. Having been a resident of New Brunswick for over 50 years, Morris Kafka has ingrained himself into the local community through programs such as the Second Ward Block Club and dedicated his civic duty towards the preservation of local historical sites in New Brunswick. Through this collection, not only does his involvement in the previously mentioned areas have solid support, but also his education at Rutgers University in New Brunswick is shown with the reports and documents written by him about the local architecture and city history. Also shown within the collection is his personal support and connections to the LGBT community in New Brunswick through his time at Rutgers University.

Scope and Content:

The Kafka Collection leans heavily on Morris Kafka's involvement with the Second Ward Block Club because of his leadership roles within the organization as both vice president and president during 1995-2005 periods. This section of the collection preserves the bulk of the internal correspondence between the group's leadership as well as holds the conversations between the group and local government officials such as the mayor, the city council, and local police. The finances of the club are retained extensively within the collection, holding the banking documents and local city licenses needed by the club for events. The collection retains Morris Kafka's connections to New Brunswick historical preservation projects with his association with local historical groups such as the New Brunswick Historical Association (NBHA). The NBHA documents held in the collection are the meeting minutes and agendas set out by the group during Kafka's time within the association. The local preservation projects that Kafka was connected to include the Middlesex County Mural, the Monument Hotel Mural, and the Willow Grove Cemetery, all well documented within the Collection. Beyond the Second Ward Block Club, Morris Kafka made an impact on the local New Brunswick community with his involvement in social programs such as Healthy Harvests and his CHEC Initiatives, the fight for youth development centers, and support for housing redevelopment. All these areas of Kafka's community involvement are seen within the Collection.

For all of his personal interaction with the city of New Brunswick, Morris Kafka still is conscious of New Brunswick as a whole and the events that shape it over the years. This is seen

with holdings of newspaper articles on local politics, the preservation of local newsletters such as the Hub City Expatriate, and the retention of other local papers from the 1980's within the collection. Information on the renovation of the State Theatre in New Brunswick, the progression of the "Gateway" redevelopment project, and other local community events are held within the collection about the local area.

Kafka in his personal affairs has maintained a history of his involvement with the Rutgers LGBT Community, holding the local association's correspondence, their appearances in local papers, and helping to co-author a biography about the local club's history which is now held for the collection. Also included from his personal life are his notes and correspondences outside of community and educational commitments, including papers from his time as a landlord in the city. As of now this is a complete collection with no further documents to be included at the present time.

Historical Sketch:

Collection Description:

The Morris Jacob Herschlag-Kafka Collection is organized into six sections including: the Second Ward Block Club, the LGBT Rutgers papers, NBHA, New Brunswick general history, and Community Programs with subsections for history and outreach. These sections are contained within 8 boxes and placed in the Archives of the New Brunswick Public Library

Container Listing:

<u>Box # 1</u>	<u>Content</u>
	<i>2nd Ward Block Club</i>
	○ Annual Dinners (1986 -1998)
	○ 22 nd Anniversary Pamphlets
	○ Articles
	○ Bank Statements
	○ Buchanan, Bertha
	○ Block Club Charter
	○ Combined 20 th anniversary dinner (2000)
	○ Combined 25 th anniversary gala dinner (2005)
	○ Crime Watch anniversary dinner (2002)

- Deceased Members
- Event Sign- in Sheet

Box # 2

Content

2nd Ward Block Club (Cont.)

- Improvement Survey
- Meeting Transcripts
- Member Addresses
- Miscellaneous papers (2 folders)
- Mosley, Joseph
- Publicity
- Receipts/ cashed checks/ yard sale licenses (2002 – 2015)
- Time Magazine For Kids

Box # 3

Content

2nd Ward Block Club (Cont.)

- Club Correspondence (2 folders)
- Meeting Minutes (3 folders)

Box #4

Content

General New Brunswick History

- Brochures, Historical research, pamphlets
- First Baptist Church of Lincoln Garden 50th anniversary (1987)
- “Gateway” redevelopment project (2005)
- Globalization and Industrial America Rutgers lecture (2006)

- Historical Walking tour
- Hub City Expatriate Newsletter (1988-1991)
- Miscellaneous Events
- NB Charter Change Vote (1998)
- National Register of Historic Places
- Nyerere Education Institute
- Political Articles
- Preservation/Redevelopment projects (2005, 2008, 2014)
- Ramusen Neighborhood Revitalization Proposal
- Rutgers Fraternity Articles (1984)
- Weird New Brunswick (4 CDs included)

Box # 5

Content

Community Programs- Outreach

- Bridge Project Workshop (2000)
- Community Center Miscellaneous
- CHEC
- CHEC development
- CHEC newsletters
- Crime Watch Group Leaders Association
- Healthy Harvest (2003) (1 CD included)
- Hope IV project: 29 Remsen Ave.
- Hyland Park YMCA redevelopment
- Neighborhood Group Leaders Association
- NB Recreational Center Taskforce

- Safe Harvest (2005)
- Youth Center

Box # 6

Content

New Brunswick Historical Association

- Agenda
- Correspondence and meetings
- Historical clippings
- Meeting Minutes (2003-2013)
- NB Historical Preservation Advisory Commission
- NB Historical Board Preservation ordinance task force (2 binders)

Personal Papers

- Rent Control (2 Folders)
- Kafka Letters
- Kafka Notes
- 123 Livingston Ave.- House Preservation Certification

Box # 7

Content

Community Programs- History

- The Bishop House history paper
- Community Projects Misc.
- Historic District Signage (2000/2001)
- The Home News Tribune newspaper articles (1980-2004)
- Local Newspapers and newsletters

- Middlesex Co. Mural Preservation (2001)
- Monument Hotel Mural Restoration (2000)
- NB Development reports (1980)
- NB State Theatre
- The NB Train Station history paper
- Willow Grove Cemetery Restoration (2002-2010)

Box # 8

Content

R.U.L.G.A.

- Archives Project (1993)
- Club Correspondence (1979-1989)
- Club history 1969-1989 book draft
- Kafka notes, correspondence, call list (1986-1989)
- Kaufman, Dan
- LBGT Publications (1983, 1989-1992)
- LBGT Articles (1988-1991)
- 1988 Events

Literature (Stored Separately)

- Elmwood Cemetery Map and Walking Tour (5)
- Guide to Historical Sites in Central New Jersey: The Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance Inc.
- Historic Stroll Through East Brunswick : A Self-Guided Tour : MCCHC
- History Buff's The Hitchhiker's Guide to Middlesex County Booklet
- Jewish Agricultural Colonies in New Jersey 1882-1920 : Ellen Eisenburg

- *New Brunswick during the Revolution*. Rutgers-New Brunswick lecture given by Dr. Richard McCormick [May 1, 1976] 4pg.
- *New Jersey: Life, Industries, and Resources of a Great State* by the NJ State Chamber of Commerce 1928
- Of Many Nations... Booklet : MCCHC
- Places of Cultural and Historical and Historic Interest in Middlesex County, NJ 1977 Map : MCCHC
- Scenic & Historic Tours of NJ Brochure
- The Elmwood Cemetery Civil War Map and Walking Tour (2)
- Treasures: The Historic Sites of Middlesex County Booklet
- Welcome to the New Brunswick Community Guide

MM 201 CDs to be found in CD Container* (uncatalogued material)

- MM 201.1 CD marked "A C Bellows 2nd W + CHEC-NB files through Jan 2007." Contains documents from early 2000s regarding the activity of the Second Ward Neighborhood Block Club.
- MM 201.2 CD marked "2nd WBC albus cavus ad .jpg .psd." There are 2 versions of the same poster in JPEG and PSD formats.
- MM 201.3 and MM 201.4
These 2 CDs are scanned documents of the application to Preservation NJ of New Jersey's 10 Most Endangered historic places by Kafka c.2007 to stop the Gateway Project development of Somerset Street between George Street and Easton Avenue.
- MM 201.5
These are scans of photos taken by Kearney Kuhlthau of head stones and monuments for the Elmwood cemetery Map project c 2008.
- MM 201.6
More scanned photos of the Somerset Street area for the preservation effort.
- MM 201.7
Photos of a first grade civics class. No further information [New Brunswick]

*These CDs contain scanned documents and pictures that are support for the material contained in the collection as processed by Malcolm Harris.