



*The 1741 Carter House, 90 Butler Parkway, is home to the Summit Historical Society.*

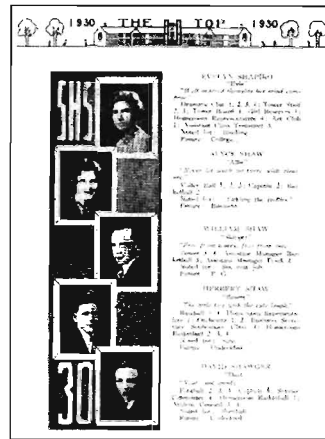
## The Carter House: Explore the Possibilities

The 1741 Carter House is not only the oldest building in town and headquarters of the Summit Historical Society, it is the city's local history museum and home to a vast archive of research materials available to the public year-round.

Originally built on River Road, the house was moved in the 1980s to save it from demolition.

Visitors enjoy entering the front of the house through the 18th century Dutch door, designed to let fresh air in while keeping animals out. It features its original hardware. Many of the home's floors and windows are also original.

Most begin a tour of the house in the parlor, which features, among other treasures, an 1830s settee, a panoramic photo of the World War I ambulance corps from Overlook Hospital (look



*The society's collection boasts Summit High School yearbooks dating back to 1921.*

closely and see if you can spot the lone female ambulance driver pictured) and an Aeolian pipe organ from the early 1900s. An antique corner cabinet holds Summit memorabilia.

Steps away is the Victorian-style library, with its Worthington Whittredge painting

and a fine book collection. An 1860s table holds an Edison Fireside Phonograph, manufactured in Orange in 1905. Art on one wall is dedicated to a long-time painter and poet who lived in town for many decades.

Right outside the door to the library hangs the earliest known complete map of Summit, dated 1879. Reproductions are available.

Across the hall, the dining room boasts a period Franklin stove, an Ogee mantle clock, a desk that belonged to Jonathan Crane Bonnell, credited with bringing the first train to Summit



*A childhood photo of Harry Owen May, son of John N. May, is among thousands of images of Summit residents contained in the historical society's archives.*

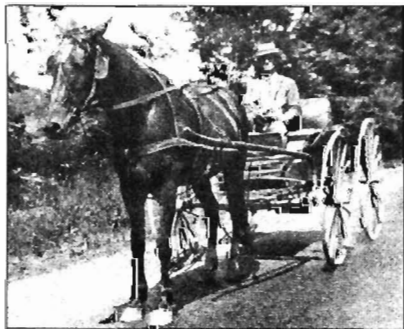
in 1837, and a sampler stitched in 1830 by his daughter. To one side is a rope day bed, also known as a hired hands bed.

The Colonial Kitchen features its original cooking fireplace with a built-in beehive oven, antique homemaking implements, a circa-1790 blanket chest and a Civil War-era shot gun.

In the adjacent Summit Room, the society displays rotating exhibits of memorabilia and souvenirs, mannequins attired in period clothes, a handcrafted diorama that depicts Summit during the Revolutionary War and a showcase containing war medals and other personal artifacts. The room also features a small gift shop, which offers a variety of handcrafts, notecards, books and brochures, all with a Summit theme.

At the rear of the Carter House is the May Room, named for the long-time Summit family who made its construction possible. It is home to the archives of the Summit Historical Society, which include:

- city directories, 1898-1979
- phone books, 1980 to the present



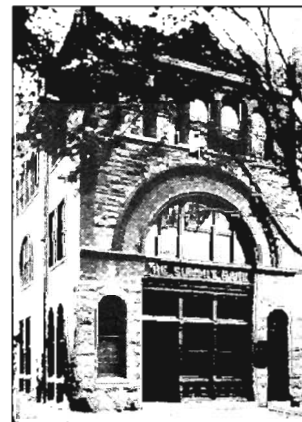
*Fred Sayre served as a postman in Summit from 1902 to 1939.*

- Summit High School yearbooks dating to 1921
- thousands of residents' obituaries



*Frances Doane Twombly was considered the 'mother of recreation' in Summit, and was largely responsible for the creation of Soldiers' Memorial Field.*

- hundreds of family biographies
- maps that date back to 1777, including city atlases
- copies of the 1989 Historic Sites Inventory
- the Union County census from 1865, 1885, 1895, 1905 and 1915
- microfilm of local newspapers dating back to 1883, up to 1995, and hundreds of hard copies of the papers, bound chronologically
- thousands of Summit photos taken over the last 100-plus years
- alphabetized folders of documents, newspaper clippings, photos and other records that focus upon Summit residents, schools, houses of worship, businesses and other organizations
- a compilation of essays written by Summit veterans
- a collection of cookbooks published by Summit charitable groups
- the complete archives of the Summit



*Founded by local residents, The Summit Bank once stood at the corner of Bank Street and Beechwood Road.*

Playhouse Association and of the Overlook Follies

- an extensive collection of period clothing and accessories
- the Congressional Medal of Honor received posthumously by Summit resident Corporal Thomas O'Shea
- a catalogued collection of Summit postcards
- a library that boasts hundreds of books on topics ranging from the city's history and Hudson River School painter Worthington Whittredge to the Revolutionary War and the Lenni Lenape Indians, plus scrapbooks compiled by local residents and a collection of books by authors with ties to Summit

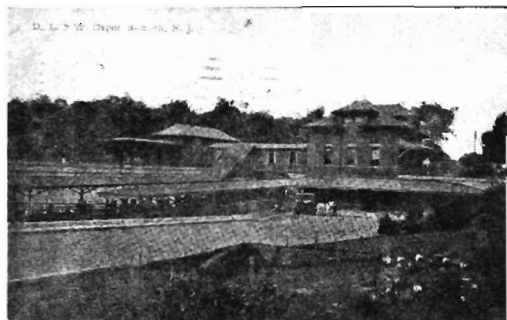
There is never an admission charge to visit the Carter House, and all are welcome, from those doing research to people simply curious about what might be on file. Schoolchildren often do research for assigned projects, and homeowners seek information about their houses and families who might have lived there previously. Genealogists



*The John J. Muchmore home was constructed on Morris Essex Turnpike, opposite Canoe Brook Country Club. During the American Revolution it was the residence of Elias Dayton, and British prisoner Charles Asgil was kept there.*

are also frequent visitors, and often find answers to unsolved family mysteries. We often field requests from near and far and help with investigations into topics that might range from the railroad and former mayors to when a particular house was built.

Volunteers are available for assistance, and guided tours may be scheduled for scouts, students and private groups.



*This image – postmarked 1911 -- of the Summit Train Station is among hundreds of postcards featured in a catalogued collection at the Carter House.*

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