

M. J. Biskow



*Department of State
Division of Archives and
Records Management*

State of New Jersey

*New Jersey State Archives
185 West State Street, CN 307
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-6260/Telefax (609) 396-2454*

22 October 1993

Samuel Alderisio, Chief of Police
Township of Mahwah
300 B Route 17 South
Mahwah Township, NJ 07430

**Re: Overseer of the Poor Records, 1780-
circa 1840s**

Dear Chief Alderisio:

Recently one of the researchers in the State Archives reported to me the existence of an original book of Overseer of the Poor records for Mahwah, dated 1780-circa 1840s, in your offices. I am writing to verify whether you in fact have such a volume of historical records in your custody.

The State Archives is interested in obtaining a microfilm copy of the volume, or, if microfilm does not exist, we would like to offer to microfilm it for you at our expense. Sources on early poor relief and care for the indigent are fairly uncommon in New Jersey, so we are particularly concerned about guaranteeing their permanent preservation and accessibility to the public for research purposes.

Please contact me at the letterhead address, telephone, or fax if you have any knowledge of the record book in question.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Karl J. Niederer
Chief of Archives

1993 OCT 28 11:05
REC'D MAHWAH POLICE DEPT.
MAHWAH, N.J.

TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
221 FRANKLIN TPKE.
MAHWAH, N.J. 07430-1898



SAMUEL ALDERISIO
CHIEF OF POLICE



TELEPHONE:
(201) 529-1000
FAX: 529-0240

MEMO

TO: Mayor David Dwork
FROM: Chief Alderisio
DATE: August 26, 1994
RE: Overseer of the Poor Log

In May of this year while cleaning out old records at the Police Department, we found a log entitled, "Overseer of the Poor" dating back to the 1800's.

Realizing the historical value of this log, I contacted Mr. Karl Niederer of the Division of Archives in Trenton.

On May 23, 1994 they came to our headquarters and took possession of the log to micro-film for their records and intended to return the log to Mahwah.

Mr. Niederer called me today to advise it had significant state and national historic value as it also contained recorded births of black slaves in the Township.

In order to preserve this document it must undergo restoration. He has asked if Mahwah would be willing to donate this log to the state. They will preserve and restore it and give copies as well as micro-film to the Township.

I am not sure of the legal requirements but perhaps a resolution to turn this over to the State of New Jersey would be in order.

He felt there would be some positive publicity for the Township if this was approved.


Chief Samuel Alderisio

CC: Council President, Merrie Ed Omsberg



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TRENTON, NJ 08625

CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
Governor

DEFOREST B. SOARIES
Secretary of State

Reply to:

New Jersey State Archives
P.O. Box 307
185 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0307

28 September 1999

Chief Samuel Alderisio
Mahwah Police Department
221 Franklin Turnpike
Mahwah, NJ 07430

Dear Chief Alderisio:

My sincere apologies, on behalf of the State Archives, for the long delay in responding to your request for the return of the Franklin Township Overseer of the Poor Book. The issue is one of great importance to us. Please understand that for most of the past year the Archives has focused intensively on planning and preparing our collections for relocation this fall to a new facility. In consequence, we have allowed some issues and projects to rest unresolved and incomplete, and the Poor Book is one of those, I regret.

As you know from our telephone conversations, we would like to propose to the Township Committee that the Overseer's Book be permanently transferred to the State Archives. This record is in extremely poor condition and in desperate need of conservation treatment. While we have microfilmed the volume, this will do nothing to preserve the original pages of this important historical record.

Enclosed please find: 1) a partial photocopy of the volume printed from the microfilm; and 2) color photocopies of two early pages. I regret that I cannot yet send a full photocopy from the film. As luck would have it, our one microfilm printer that can reproduce on 8.5"x14" paper failed, and it requires a replacement part. To avoid further delay, I am sending what we have printed so far.

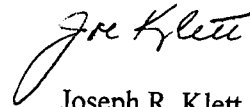
As for the color photocopies, you will see that this process produces an extremely good facsimile. We have used color photocopies in our own exhibits outside the Governor's Office in the State House for the last few years. The reproduction quality is so good—in fact, much better than photography—that other archivists have thought our original documents were on display. What we normally do for display purposes is carefully trim the copies along the original edge with scissors or a utility blade. (I have done this with one set of copies so you can see the effect). Incidentally, for reproduction we selected two early, facing pages which include some interesting entries. It would not be possible to produce color copies for the entire volume, however, without severe damage resulting.

As for the microfilm itself, we would be glad to provide you, a local historical society, or the county archives, with a copy of the reel.

I hope you and the Township Committee will consider the long-term benefits of transferring the Overseer of the Poor Book to the State Archives. Many early municipal records were transferred to the State Archives—then called the Public Record Office—in the 1920s-40s under provisions of New Jersey's public records law (see *NJSA Title 47*). While the State Archives still does have general authority over records of defunct municipalities, in recent decades our agency has focused more on the preservation of state-level records. In certain cases, however, we strongly recommend the transfer of specific municipal and county records for permanent safekeeping by the State.

We look forward to hearing from you and/or the Township Committee regarding the future of the volume. Thank you for your patience during an unusually busy time for the State Archives' staff, and again, our apologies for the delay.

Sincerely,



Joseph R. Klett
Collection Manager

Enclosures

c K. Niederer, Director

TOWNSHIP OF MAHWAH

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
221 FRANKLIN TPKE.
MAHWAH, N.J. 07430-1898



SAMUEL ALDERISIO
CHIEF OF POLICE



TELEPHONE:
(201) 529-1000
FAX: 529-0240

May 23, 1994

I JOSEPH L. FALCA Records Management

Joseph L Falca

do this date 5-23-94 take Possession of Overseer of

The Poor Log.

*1) Joe Klett 11 am 2/10/98 will call back.
609-292-9507*

(609) 530-3200
FAX (609) 530-6121

JOSEPH L. FALCA
SUPERVISOR
RECORDS AND FORMS ANALYSIS

DIVISION OF ARCHIVES & RECORDS MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2300 Stuyvesant Ave. CN 307 Trenton, NJ 08625-0307

