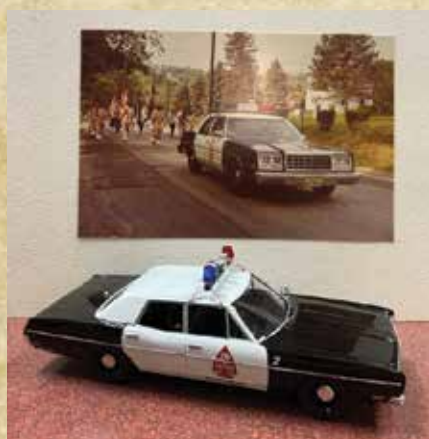




**This October, as part of American Archives Month, visit the vast, extensive and professionally maintained archives at Peters Township Public Library.** BY NICOLE TAFE



*Martin's favorite reference request to date: "A patron was looking for a photograph of a 1970s police car. He was building a model of a police car for a retired PT police officer. I found a photo in the Latimore family papers of a police car from the 1981 PT Community Day Parade. The patron visited the Archives and took some photographs of the image. He came back to share the completed model."*

**D**id you know that the Peters Township Public Library (PTPL) houses a treasure trove of historical records including documents, photographs, maps and more? The PTPL Archives, developed by former reference librarian Margaret Deitzer and located on the second floor in the James D. and William C. McMurray Local History Room, are a vital resource for anyone interested in the rich history of Peters Township—stretching from the early 1800s to the present day.

The Archives were born from an oral history project titled "Life in Peters Township," initiated by the library in 2003 with support from the Senator John Heinz History Center's Oral History Service. Deitzer recognized the importance of preserving the township's history for future generations, and this project laid the groundwork for what has become an extensive and professionally maintained collection.

Today, the Archives boast more than 300 linear feet of records, carefully preserved and organized according to professional archival standards. Under the expert care of Nancy Martin, who joined the library staff in February 2024 as a professional archivist with a Master of Archival Studies, the Archives continue to expand and evolve. The collection is open to the public by appointment, allowing researchers, students and community members to reach into the township's past.

The PTPL Archives also maintain two display spaces on the second floor outside the Reading Room, showcasing historical records from the collection. Additionally, the Archives hosts several programs throughout the year, with recordings of them available on the Peters Township Public Library's YouTube channel. Recently, the Archives began



collaborating with Peters Township Community Television on a new show titled “Live from the Archives,” which brings the township’s history to life in an exciting new format.

To make the collection more accessible, the Archives staff creates detailed finding aids—comprehensive descriptions of collections that help users locate the specific information they seek. These finding aids will soon be available on the Archives webpage at [ptlibrary.org/archives](http://ptlibrary.org/archives).

For those who cannot visit the PTPL Archives in person, digital copies of select holdings are available online through PA Photos and Documents, provided by Power Library, a service of the Office of Commonwealth Libraries. These digital records can be explored at [powerlibrary.org/category/collection-subjects/peters-township-public-library](http://powerlibrary.org/category/collection-subjects/peters-township-public-library).

This October, as part of American Archives Month, the library will host a series of events designed to engage the public with its historical collections. From Oct. 1-12, visitors can participate in lobby displays and games, including a scavenger hunt. A highlight of the celebration will be the Local History Trivia Night on Oct. 3 from 6 to 7 p.m.

The PTPL Archives are more than just a repository of documents—it is a place where personal stories and local history intersect. “As someone who did not grow up in Peters Township, it was incredible to see what the PTPL Archives had to offer when I began working at the library four years ago,” says Lacey Love, director of the Peters Township Public Library. “I was able to learn so much about the community from the documents, photos, displays and archival programs. It’s such an impressive resource!”

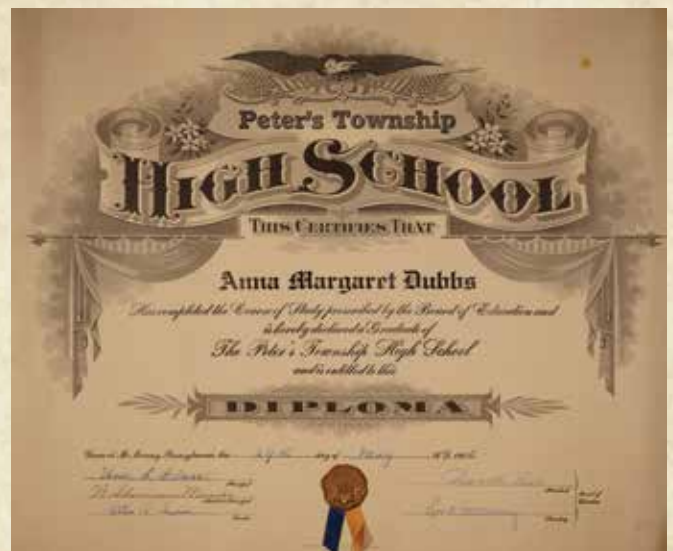
If you have historical materials to donate or are interested in visiting the Archives, contact Nancy Martin at [nmartin@pt-library.org](mailto:nmartin@pt-library.org) or 724.941.9430, ext. 4490. Additionally, the library will soon offer a DIY Memory Lab, allowing patrons to scan and preserve their family archives, furthering the mission of preserving personal and community history. ■



Photograph of Valentine School and Anna Vrhovsek, 1933. Valentine was a lifelong resident of the village of Hackett (now Venetia). Valentine and Anna married in 1936 and settled in Hackett. MS 2024.004 School family papers.



Albert Froebe & his dog, circa 1897, Albert was the eldest son of George and Elizabeth Froebe for whom “Froebe Road” is named. The photo was taken in front of the brick farmhouse on the Bruni Farm that was located on the current site of Empress Arabians on Sugar Camp Road. The Froebes rented the Bruni Farm before purchasing their own farm around 1905. MS 2020.014 Froebe family papers.



High School diploma of Anna Margaret Dubbs, 1925. MS 2023.096 Anna M. Dubbs Peters Township High School papers.