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**For Immediate Release**

**Historical NJ Newspapers Now Available in Digital Format through Library of Congress National Digital Newspaper Program**

*Perth Amboy Evening News, from 1903 to 1922, selected as the first of three NJ newspapers to be digitized and made available online*

**Trenton, NJ, January 10, 2018** – The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project is pleased to announce that the *Perth Amboy Evening News*, from 1903 to 1922, will be the first New Jersey newspaper to be digitized and made publically available through the Library of Congress [Chronicling America](#) website. Part of the National Digital Newspaper Program, the New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project is a collaboration between Rutgers University Libraries, the New Jersey State Archives, and the New Jersey State Library. The project is supported by a \$186,204 grant that was awarded in August 2016 from the National Endowment for the Humanities as part of a long-term effort to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers from all 50 states.

Prior to this digitization project, historical newspapers held by the New Jersey State Archives were only searchable through an onsite microfilm reader. The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project has taken microfilm of the newspapers, scanned and digitized select pages, and made them publically available online, ensuring that researchers can more easily uncover historical New Jersey information. The [Chronicling America](#) website provides access to these digitized historic materials, offering dynamic interactivity, magnification and navigation. Upon the project's completion, 100,000 pages of New Jersey newspapers will be available through the site.

According to project director and Rutgers University digital archivist Caryn Radick, “learning the processes for producing high quality digital images from microfilm was a steep learning

curve but the results are gratifying, making New Jersey's historical newspapers available to people anywhere in the world."

"Caryn Radick and her team are to be commended for the excellent and timely work they have done on this project," says Joseph Klett, the New Jersey State Archivist and member of the advisory board. "Full-text searching will be much more accurate because of their attention to detail and insistence on producing the best scanned images possible."

"These papers will be tremendously beneficial to genealogists and local historians as well as scholars doing textual analysis," notes Mary Chute, New Jersey State Librarian and member of the advisory board.

The New Jersey Digital Newspaper Project advisory board includes archivists, librarians, museum directors, historians, journalists, and educators from across the state. The *Perth Amboy Evening News*, which covered Middlesex County and ran daily from 1903 to 1959, except for Sundays and holidays, is the first digital release of the three historical newspapers chosen by the board. The *Jersey City Evening News* (1889 to 1906) will be the next paper to be scanned, followed by the *West-Jersey Pioneer* (later the *Bridgeton Pioneer*) from 1851 to 1917, which are expected to be completed by the Fall of 2018.

"On January 10<sup>th</sup> we will hold a small celebration to mark this launch, which will include comments from Congressman Pallone, and Eleni Glykis, director of the Perth Amboy Library, will attend. We're busy preparing round two of the grant application so that we can continue to provide access to New Jersey's history," says Radick.

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### **About the New Jersey State Library**

The New Jersey State Library (NJSL), an affiliate of Thomas Edison State University (TESU), connects people with information and resources through its service to libraries, state government, TESU staff and students, and NJ residents, including those with special needs. NJSL provides support for public, school, academic, and special libraries, and continues to promote services for learners of all ages, including key areas of continuing need such as digital literacy, business outreach, workforce development, summer reading programs, and services for the visually and physically impaired, among others. For more information, visit [www.njstatelib.org](http://www.njstatelib.org).