



# Essex County Parks Archives

Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs

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## News:

The NJ Historical Commission just announced FY2020 County History Partnership Program grant awards. Essex County will receive \$34,027, an increase of over 45% from this year. The funds will be regranted for historical programming to non-profit cultural organizations based within the county, who have applied through a formal process. The deadline for submissions is August 5 at 9 am. Applications will be reviewed by a group of peer panelists. Then awards will be decided by the Arts and History Advisory Board and announced by December.

## Upcoming:

### US Semiquincentennial

That is right! Planning is already underway, especially here in New Jersey, for celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of United States and the Revolutionary War. For more information, check out this url: [revolutionarynj.org/250april30mtg/](http://revolutionarynj.org/250april30mtg/)



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*Putting Essex County First*

## Soliciting Site Suggestions

During the summer of 1894, the preliminary Park Commission sent a letter to governing bodies and organizations around the county, affording each locality the opportunity to recommend park sites. The mayors of Newark and Orange were first to respond. Franklin Township (Nutley) recommended the site for what is now Yanticaw Park. Civic associations, improvement societies, and individuals responded and expressed support for the endeavor.

While most of the suggestions seemed practical, others were too elaborate or overly ambitious. One suggestion that did not work out was the Kearny Homestead. The sister of General Philip Kearny offered the family homestead buildings in northern Newark under the condition that the Commission celebrate his memory and purchase the remaining grounds.

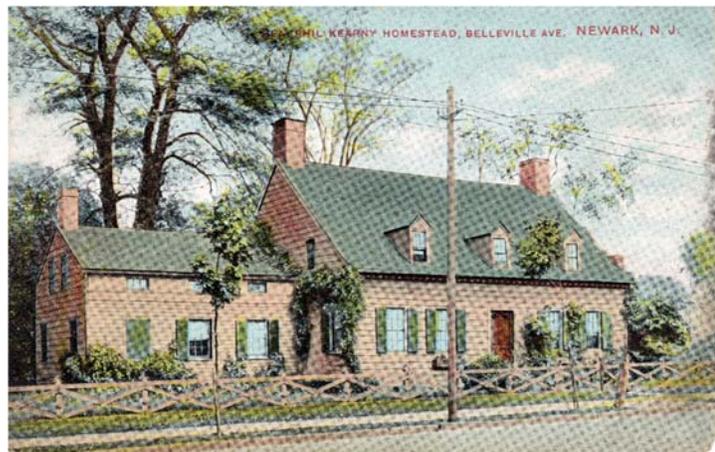


Photo: Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, Newark Public Library

The most acclamatory suggestion came from the West Orange Township Committee. They suggested what is now the Eagle Rock Reservation, not only because of its great natural advantages and easy accessibility from the cities, but also because physicians of the time recommended the health benefits of “removal to this higher level.”

Clearly, Essex residents were excited by the possibilities of the nation’s first county-wide park system. The volume of recommendations was so great, the commission joked that the entire county was deemed “parkable”.