

# *Noyes Internship Presentation*

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# *Beginnings*

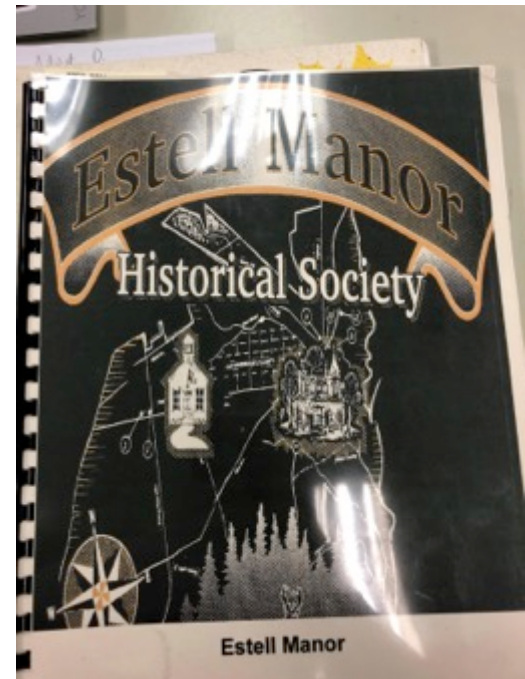
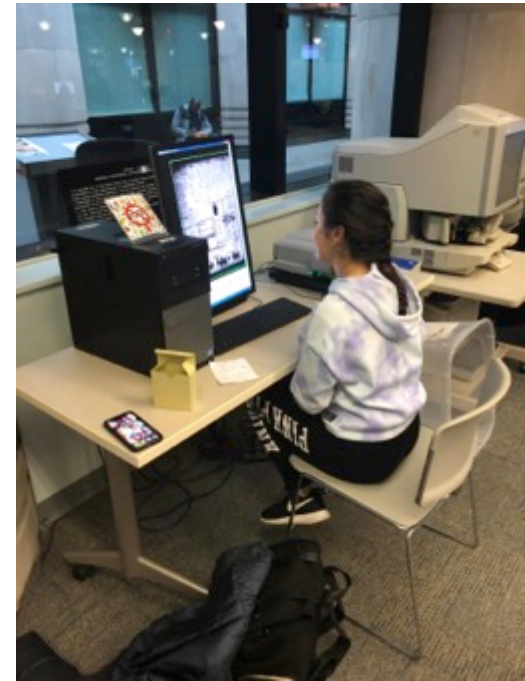
I had started my internship at Kramer Hall, getting a tour of the space as well as information on the duties and assignments for this semester. Receiving all the information at once had been a little daunting, but I was eager to get started. I spent my first day selecting the four artists for my research papers and beginning research on my first artist, Marta Sanchez.



# *Estell Empire*

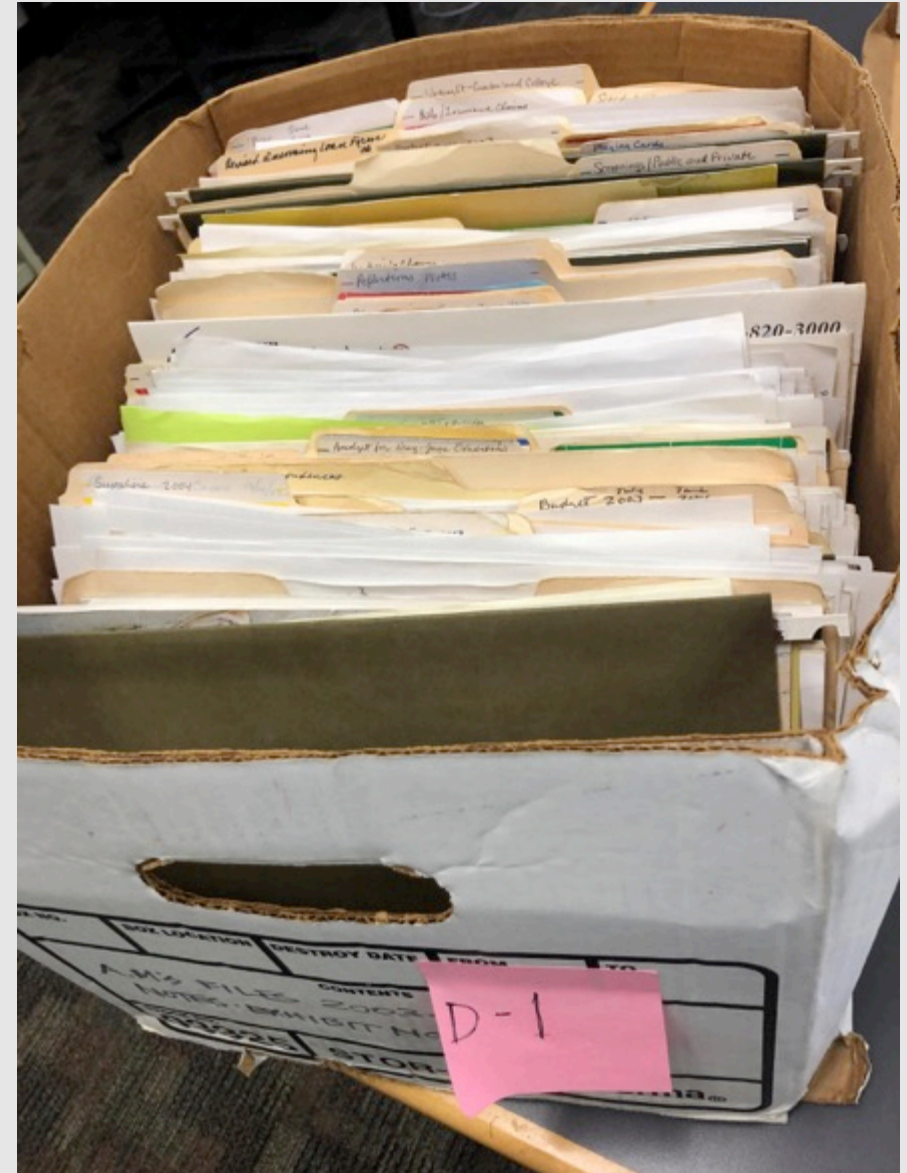
The next time I came to the Noyes, I began what would be my main project for the semester: the Estell Empire exhibition. I was excited to work on this project since my interview for the internship, since it was to be a historical exhibition.

It was then that I began what would be a wild goose chase for information connecting Rebecca Estell Bourgeois Winston to the women's suffrage movement.



# *Library Archives*

I began working for Heather Perez in the Stockton library archives on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and would come to the archives on a weekly basis for the remainder of the semester. I started in the archives processing a large collections box from 2000-2003 and documenting the process, but Heather would later help me in my research on Rebecca Estell Bourgeois and other Estell research projects that I had engaged in throughout the semester.



# *Meet The Artist at Pennsylvania Ave. School*

I was a little nervous to facilitate a meet the artist program at Pennsylvania avenue school, as I was not experienced in working with children, but the school programs ended up being such a rewarding and eye-opening part of my internship. I had moved to Atlantic County and lived there for over a year, but until this semester I never really felt a sense of community or identity here until these past few months working with Atlantic city's kids, both with the Noyes and my independent study with the Chelsea EDC.

That first day, we brought in artist Lavett Ballard to do an art project with the kids, and although many of them spoke only Spanish and relied on the other children for interpretation, I was blown away by the remarkable artwork that some of them produced.



# *Arts Garage 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Event*

I really loved the days that I got to come to the Arts Garage. The atmosphere of the place is really cool, and I liked getting to attend staff meetings and see all the work and planning that goes into every event and exhibition at the museum. That day, I had attended both a staff meeting and a meeting with representatives for 48 blocks to discuss collaborations for this year.

After that, I assisted in setting up food and the crafts station for the second Friday event featuring art from students at Absegami school. I spent the majority of the event helping people with our valentine's day craft, which was a clay heart shaped pin.



# *Sovereign Ave. School*

I helped with another meet the artist program with Saskia and Elizabeth Terenik from AC Devco and the Chelsea EDC, this time working on paintings inspired by Jacob Lawrence. This event was much bigger than the previous one I had assisted with, being covered by news stations and with a visit from Kim Holmes, the assistant commissioner to the governor. We were all treated to empanadas at the end as well.



# *Daniel Risley and the Estell Land Deals*

One of my main research projects for Estell Empire was finding the identity of someone named “Risley” who was named in many land sale documents in our collection and find out what happened between him and the Estell family that caused this. What I dug up was a crazy tale of a crooked businessman biting off way more than he could chew and eventually losing all that he had gained to the Estells that was fit for any soap opera.

My research was predominately supplemented by Samuel Avery-Quinn, a professor who had published a book on Daniel Risley and his crooked land deals with Anderson Bourgeois and the Estell family. This research was my favorite out of all the investigating I had done for Estell Empire. It seemed that the farther I dug into any portion of the Estell family’s history, the story that unraveled became a sort of rabbit hole!

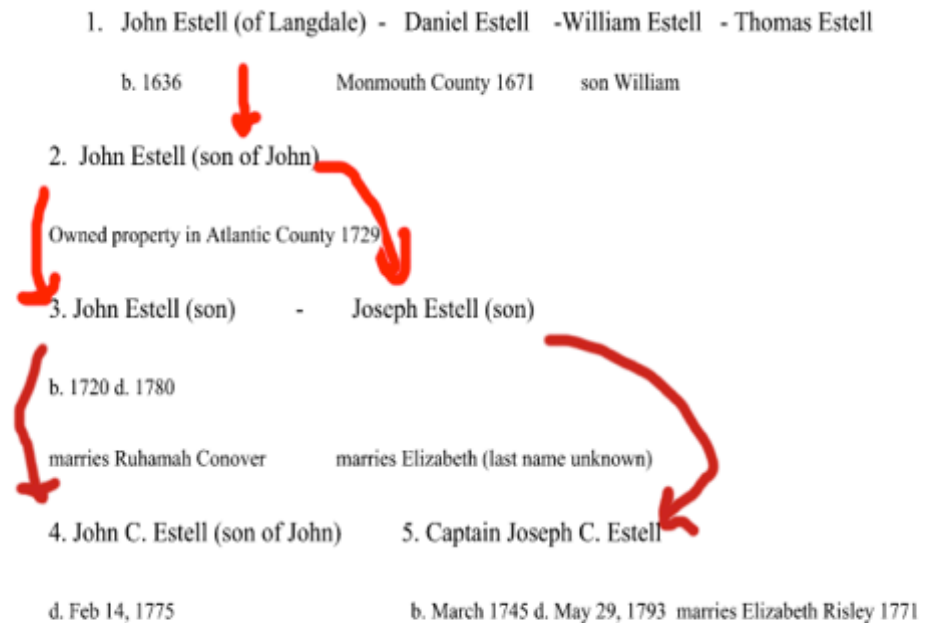




# Early Estell Research

My next project for Estell Empire was trying to trace the Estell family back to their origins, which turned out to be another crazy rabbit hole that lead me from Atlantic City to Stockton's library archives to Somer's Point looking for one story that I could trust completely. Similarly to my research conclusions with Rebecca Estell Bourgeois, there was no direct evidence confirming one single story of the Estell family origin, so I decided to base my story for the education guide on what I found repeated the most. By the end of my research, I had created eight different possible family trees for the early Estells. Pictured on this slide is my first version.

## Family Tree



# *Designing Estell Empire*

My next couple of visits to Kramer Hall were the best of my whole internship. After all the research and writing I had done for the exhibition, I was finally getting to help put it together! I helped to design three glass cases: one of china, one of letters and documents, and one of books. I also helped to hang family portraits, design display cases of industry materials, and arrange other standalone artifacts such as a sea trunk and ballot box. I was so excited for the exhibition to open so that my friends and family could see! It was a really proud moment for me.



# *Covid-19 and Artist Research Projects*

I had spent time February interviewing artists Marta Sanchez and Robert Roesch, as well as researching W. Carl Burger, for the research papers due at the end of March and had spent a lot of time trying to track down Rae Smith as well. When Covid-19 shut down in person meetings for the rest of the semester, I turned my focus to Suzanne Reese-Horvitz, fellow artist and wife of Robert Roesch to do research on.

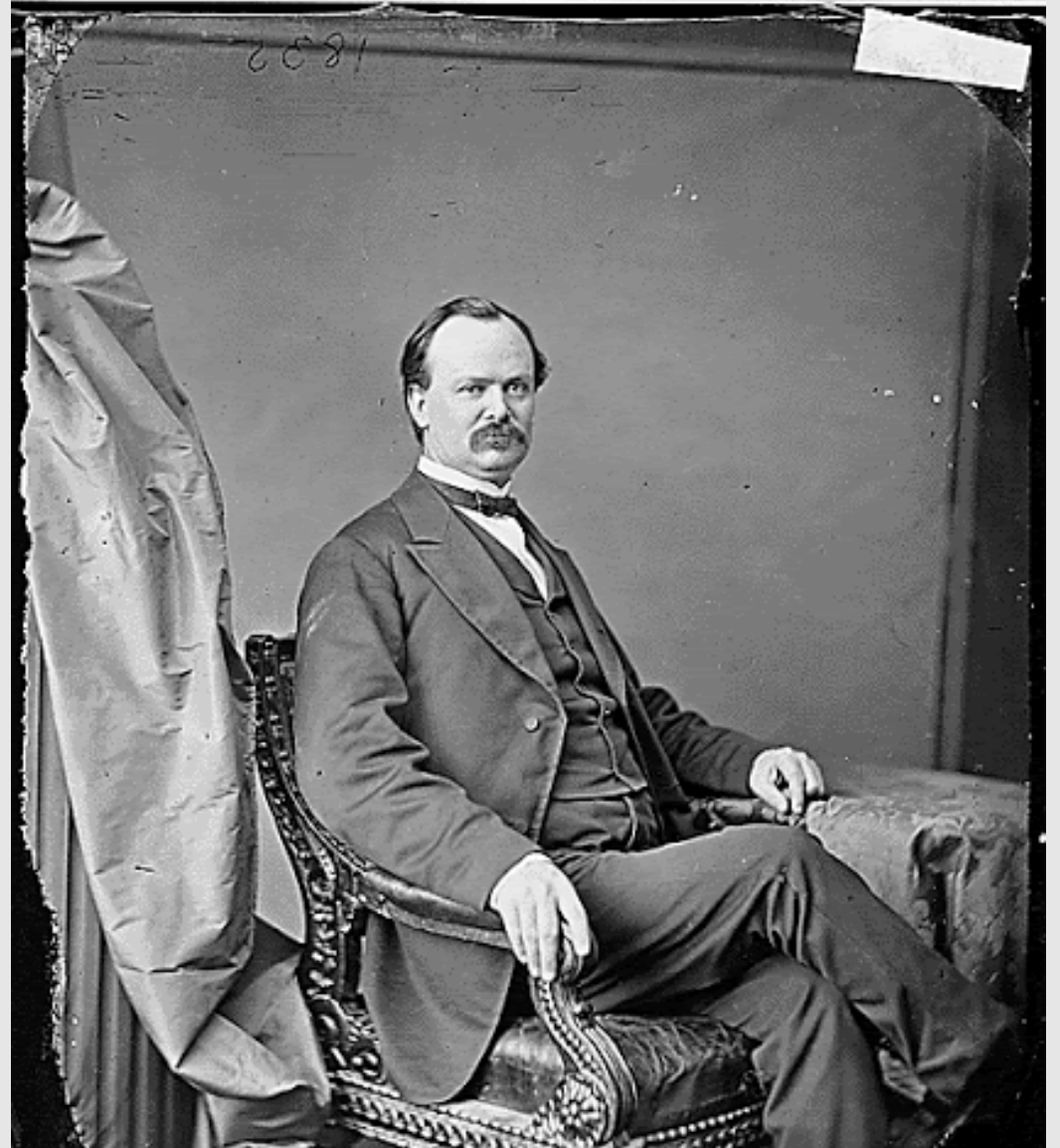
Through these four papers, I really got to see art in a different perspective. I got to meet the people behind the art and really get a sense of who they were and what their art meant to them and to the world, which was a unique experience for me. After finishing my papers, I sent them back to the artists that I had interviewed. Robert and Sue liked theirs so much that they shared them with Robert's students from the Philadelphia Institute of Art! When I was later introduced to his class via zoom, Robert called me a writer. It was really special for me coming from someone I had grown to respect so much.



# *Grand Tour and Online Estell Empire*

Due to Covid-19 closing the doors of the museum to the public, I am now in the process of helping to make Estell Empire an online exhibition for the public to view. I have been working with my previous research material on the Risley land deals, as well as the Burbridge colony (General Burbridge pictured right) that Eva had researched. I felt great relief in hearing that Estell Empire had been extended through September, so that one day the public will get to see the exhibition that I had worked so hard on in person.

I have also been doing some research in between for Robert and Sue, as they are curating an international exhibition that was meant to be an online and in-person hybrid. Although I am excited and have been drawing out design ideas for the project, it seems that the exhibition is just too far away and Robert and Sue are too busy with their current lives to do very much for the exhibition by the time my internship is through.





## *Final Reflections*

This internship has definitely been the most hands on and thorough experience that I have had at Stockton. It kept me very busy, to say the least, but it has also been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my academic career so far.

I found that I really love research and that I am rather good at it, I made connections within my community, and I also got to connect with really amazing artists along the way. Although the in-person part of the internship was cut short, I'm still really proud of all the work that I have done here and I'm so glad to have gotten all the experiences that I did.