LEAGUE NEWS
The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Fall Meeting
Denville
Morris County
October 1, 2005

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Article and registration form on page 9.

Jersey outbids rivals for its birth records

BY TOM HESTER Star-Ledger Staff

Outbidding stiff competition, the state government spent $656,760 on June 21st to obtain 11 rare documents, maps and books from the 17th and 18th centuries, material that the state's director of archives described as "the Dead Sea Scrolls of the settlement of New Jersey." The documents, including records of the English colonial charters establishing what would become the Garden State, were sold at auction by Christie's in New York and will join the collection of the state archives in Trenton.

"These items have been in private hands for over 300 years," Karl J. Niederer, the state archivist, said following the auction. "In all that time, no scholar -- certainly not an American scholar -- has seen these documents. All of these documents, whether imprints (maps) or manuscripts, will be unique in the state archives." Half the seats in the brightly lit, hushed auction room were filled with about 35 bidders and spectators as the New Jersey documents went on the block. Seated beside Niederer was Joseph J. Felcone of Princeton, a prominent rare-book and manuscript dealer serving as the state's agent for the auction. With slight waves of his bidding paddle and nods of his head, Felcone coolly outbid what he estimated were six other serious bidders -- all unidentified, some phoning in their offers -- while Niederer kept track on a folded sheet of paper.

Veteran auctioneer Francis Wahlgren sold the documents at a rate of almost one per minute as a tote board behind him flashed the bids and tallied the final total in dollars, euros, yen, British pounds and Swiss francs. Eleven Christie's staffers handled telephone bids along the side of the room. When it was over, the normally reserved Niederer briefly teared up. "This is a great day for New Jersey," he said. "I did not get much sleep last night," he added. "These records are not only interesting to scholars at the university level, but they are also for the general public interested in the history of New Jersey."

Niederer said he expects to bring the documents to Trenton within 30 days of when the money changes hands. Eventually, he said, the documents will be available for the public and researchers to view, and im-

(continued on page three)
The Slate of Officers and Directors of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

At the October League meeting, the following slate was approved for election:

President - Robert J. Hunter
Haddon Heights Historical Society (two-year term)

First Vice President— J.B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House (two-year term)

Vice-President, Northern—
John E. Chance
Montclair Historical Society (two-year term)

Vice-President, Central—
James T. Raleigh
Friends of Monmouth Battlefield (two-year term)

Vice-President, Southern—
Jean Lacey
Ocean County Historical Society (two-year term)

Secretary— Kevin M. Hale
Metuchen-Edison Historical Society (two-year term)

Treasurer— Dorothy M. Andrew
Gloucester County Historical Society (two-year term)

Historian—Sally Yerkovich (two-year term)

Trustee, Northern—
Betty Hardy
Madison Historical Society (four-year term)

Trustee, Central—
William Fidurski
Clark Historical Society (four-year term)

Trustee, Northern—
Dorothy E. Johnson
Oakeside-Bloomfield Cultural Center

Trustee, Central— Rhett Pernot
William Trent House Museum

The following incumbents will continue to serve, as their terms do not expire until 2006:

Trustee-at-Large—
Patricia Drummond
Historical Association of Fair Haven (four-year term)

Trustee-at-Large—
Robert R. Longcore
Sussex County Historical Society

Trustee, Northern—
Jean E. Price
William Trent House Museum

Trustee, Central— Sonia L. Forry
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township (two-year term)

Trustee, Southern—
June Sheridan
Atlantic County Historical Society (four-year term)

Trustee Emeriti
Bernard Bush
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society

Ruth Kane Fern
Passaic County Historical Society

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

Dear Friends,

As you may have noticed, the dues for our member societies is being raised to offset some of the cost of operating with an administrator and a web site.

Please explain to your Boards why this increase is taking place. We value our member societies and individual subscribers and trust they will all understand why we must pass along some of our additional expenses.

I'd like to say, "And if you don't like it, don't go away. Run for office." I'm not sure I really want to challenge anyone over the increased dues, but I do want to invite people to let me or Linda Barth know if you would like to join the Board of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. We have three to four executive meetings a year in Piscataway as well as our three member society meetings. Please consider joining us.

Thank you for your interest and continued support.

Sincerely,
Bob Hunter
856-547-7132; 856-465-7751
bhunte@camden.lib.nj.us
"Today an important part of New Jersey's history is coming back to the state where it belongs," said acting Gov. Richard Codey, who despite the state's fiscal crisis gave the go-ahead to spend up to $1 million for the material. "Securing these documents is an investment not only in our history but, more importantly, in our future." The documents were part of a collection of 346 rare Colonial and early American books, maps and papers Christie's auctioned on behalf of Jay T. Snider, a wealthy Philadelphia businessman and former president of hockey's Philadelphia Flyers. Chris Coover of Montclair, a Christie's senior vice president, said the auction netted Snider $6.32 million. The highest amount paid for a single item was $374,000 for an 1876 first edition of a book, "The Yellowstone National Park and the Mountain Regions of Idaho, Nevada, Colorado and Utah," which depicts landscapes of the West. Snider did not attend the event.

Niederer arrived at Christie's on 49th Street with authority to spend as much as $1 million from a little-used $39 million public records preservation fund. Overall, the state would bid $547,300 for the 11 documents, with Christie's getting a 20 percent seller's fee of $109,460.

These items are considerably more valuable than what we paid for them. They really need to be in the state of New Jersey," said Felcone, who has represented wealthy buyers at Christie's auctions for 33 years. "It is so remarkable to have 17th-century material appear on the market. It is really quite extraordinary. We may not see something like this again for many years -- maybe never."

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR...FOR THE WINTER LEAGUE MEETING**

The League's Winter Meeting will be held in Toms River, Ocean County, on March 11, 2006. The Hopewell Valley Historical Society, Hunterdon County, will host the League in June 2006.

**APPLY FOR C.A.P.E.S.—FREE ARCHIVAL EVALUATION SERVICE**

A major concern of the New Jersey Historical Commission is preserving the state's historical record and increasing public access to historical materials. Because of this concern, the Commission awards an annual grant to the New Jersey Caucus of the MidAtlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC) to provide a free archival evaluation service. The service is called CAPES, an acronym that stands for Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service. CAPES has helped historical organizations, museums, libraries, religious and medical institution, schools, and a variety of cultural and social organizations to manage their archival collections better.

The service provides the recipient organization with the consultative services of a professional archivist. The consultant visits the collection and writes a report that makes recommendations about things to do to preserve the collection better and make it more accessible to the public. The service costs the recipient organization nothing. The consultants recommend actions that cost little or nothing and which can be done immediately, as well as steps for which funding is necessary. CAPES consultants' reports can be used as the core of applications to the Historical Commission's grants program for funds with which to implement the recommendations.

The service is available to both public and private organizations and institutions, but the collection(s) to be evaluated must be accessible to the public. Most institutions funded by the state or federal government are not eligible for the CAPES service. CAPES does not provide evaluations of artifacts. There is no application deadline; apply when convenient. For guidelines and application form, write to: CAPES, c/o NJ Historical Commission, PO Box 305, Trenton 086250305; or call (609) 292-6062; or fax (609) 633-8168.
IDEAS-4-U
by Jack Chance

Are you in charge of arranging programs for your society? Are you running out of ideas?

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH), a non-profit organization, was established in 1973 as the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council’s Horizons Speakers Bureau provides lecturers in humanities areas as wide-ranging as ethnic and cultural studies, history, literature, interpretation of the arts, and public policy. These programs, available to New Jersey nonprofit organizations, are free and open to the public and include time for audience discussion. More than 170 topics by over 70 speakers are available for selection. During 2003, over 225 programs were hosted by organizations from Sussex to Atlantic County.

Any New Jersey nonprofit organization that is able to provide an appropriate site and an audience of thirty or more people is eligible to apply. Programs are frequently hosted by libraries, historical societies, museums, civic associations, public agencies, senior centers, and other community groups. NJCH reserves the right to give preference to organizations that have not previously hosted speakers.

Each organization may register for two programs within a one-year period beginning with the date of the first presentation. There is a one-year registration fee of $75 that must be paid when the application for the first program is submitted. You may contact the Council at 609-695-4838 or visit them on the web at www.njch.org.

RUTGERS HISTORICAL TOURS

Historical tours of the Old Queen’s and Voorhees Mall sections of the Rutgers New Brunswick Campus are offered by appointment every Friday and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. during the Fall and Spring Semesters. Admission to regularly-scheduled tours is free. During Summer Break, tours are available on Fridays at 11:30 a.m. by appointment or call to arrange an alternate time. Tours are available at other times for a nominal charge. There are no tours during Winter Break, Spring Break, exam periods, the week of University Commencement, or other official University Holidays.

The student-led tours depart from Riverstede, 542 George Street, near the intersection of George Street and Seminary Place on the College Avenue Campus. Reservations should be made by 10:00 a.m. on the Thursday prior to the tour you wish to attend.

The hour-long walking tour explores the origins of Rutgers, its traditions, and architectural points of interest. The area includes some of the university’s oldest buildings.

Groups may arrange customized tours, selecting those campus buildings, points of interest, museums, etc. that they wish to visit. A fee may be assessed. For more details, contact 732-932-9342 x2619. It is recommended that customized tours be scheduled a minimum of two weeks in advance. More time may be required based on the group’s requests. For more information, directions, or parking information, call Campus Information Services at 732-932-9342, x2619. For general Rutgers Information, please contact RU-info at 732-932-info x4636.

ARCHIVES WEEK, OCTOBER 9-15

State Historical Records Coordinator Karl J. Niederer is pleased to announce that New Jersey will join other mid-Atlantic states in celebrating Archives Week, October 9-15, 2005. This year’s theme is “In Archives We Trust: Preserving Our History.” This annual event is an observance of the positive impact that archival and historical records have on people’s lives.

The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) encourages county and local archival, historical, genealogical and cultural organizations to observe Archives Week by sponsoring educational and commemorative activities and events that tell the story of New Jersey’s people. If you have already planned Archives Week activities, SHRAB would like to help you publicize them by including them on the SHRAB web site. You may go to the web site at http://www.njarchives/links/shrab.html, print out the event input form, and submit it to me via snail mail or email at the addresses below. Once approved, your event(s) will be listed on the site. Barbara Pepe, SHRAB Administrative Assistant, 225 West State Street, PO Box 307, Trenton, NJ 08625-0307; 609-777-3598; 609-292-9105 [fax]; Barbara.Pepe@sos.state.nj.us.
HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

**Labor Day Campfire and Garden and House Tour**—Costumed educators offer family oriented living history. New Jersey Soldiers at Rest (S.A.R.), Whitebrier Bed & Breakfast Inn, 1028-29 Cooper Street, Edgewater Park; 609-871-3859.

**Celebration of Farming**—Museum and house tours; craft demonstrations; food; farm animal petting zoo; antique tractors and cars; work horses; chain saw sculpture; quilting; feltmaking; hay rides. Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, Route 29, Lambertville. **September 10-11**, 10 am-4 pm; 609-397-2752; www.holcombe-jimison.org

**Guided Tours of the** LOIS MCCLURE, a full-size replica of an 1862-class Lake Champlain canal sailing schooner. The ship is visiting Hudson River ports this summer. **September 17-18** at Liberty State Park, in the marina near the lightship. Sponsored by the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum, the Canal Society of New Jersey and Liberty State Park. Saturday-Sunday, 11 am-5 pm; 908-722-9556; www.lcmm.org and www.canalsocietynj.org.

**In the Footsteps of Thomas Paine**—A guided tour through charming Bordentown. Visit places frequented by Paine and his celebrated contemporaries, enjoy the quaint downtown bordered with early American architecture housing shops and galleries, and continue the lively discourse with the tour narrator at one of the local restaurants. The tour itself is free, although donations are greatly appreciated, and participants are responsible for their own 'meal ticket.' **First Saturday of every month through December**. Participants gather at 4:00 PM in front of The Old Bookshop on Farnsworth Avenue at E. Church Street; 609-324-9909.

**Local History**—Discover the great history that exists in your own towns and neighborhoods as you listen to a historian speak about the local history of the area and also tour the Hancock House. William Hancock House, Hancocks Bridge; **September 25** and **October 23**; call for times; FREE; 856-935-4373; www.fohh.20fr.com.

**Mount Tabor House Tour**—The Mount Tabor Historical Society hosts its Twelfth Annual House Tour; rain or shine; **Saturday, October 1**; $15.00 per person; Mt. Tabor is a stop on the NJ Transit Morris & Essex line; Route 53, Mt. Tabor; Beth Shaw, 973-586-1564; www.mounttabornj.org.

**Fifth Annual Applefest**—The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township invites you to enjoy apple goodies, ice cream and more; apple pie baking contest; children’s games; musical entertainment; restored barn with antique tool display; **Sunday, October 2**; 11 am—5 pm; John Wesley Gandy Farmstead, Route 616, Greenfield; 609-390-5656; no admission charge; free parking; http://hpsout.tripod.com.

**Civil War Reenactment**—Civil War camps and battles on a 38-acre park in the historic town of Allentown, New Jersey. Held during the town's Harvest Festival. Gordon Street; **October 8-9**; Sat, 10 am-4 pm Sun 10 am-3 pm; FREE (donations accepted); 732-951-9013; www.14thnjjvir.org

**The Greens of Morris County: A Cultural History of Golf**—An exhibit that examines the history of golf in Morris County, where the first women’s tournament was held in 1895; **through October 9**; Acorn Hall, 68 Lafayette Avenue, Morristown; 973-267-3465; www.acornhall.org.

**2004 New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge**—Join lighthouse enthusiasts from all over the country in visiting New Jersey’s 11 land-based lighthouses in one weekend. **Saturday, Sunday, October 15-16**; 609-449-1360; www.njlhs.burlco.org; www.abseconlighthouse.org.
Lambertville House Tour—23rd annual autumn tour; **Sunday, October 23**; 11 am-5 pm; advance tickets $15, available after Labor Day; $20 day of event; 609-397-0770; [www.lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org/housetour.php3](http://www.lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org/housetour.php3); canal tours in the afternoon.

**Exemplary Women from American Jewish History:** a dramatic presentation by Joan Neuwirth—Monroe Township Jewish Center, 11 Cornell Avenue; 10 am; 732-249-4894.

**Our Long Endurance: New Jersey in the Civil War**—Two-year exhibit focusing on the role of New Jersey throughout the Civil War. Lecture series and educational programming to be offered. **thru December 31**; group & school tours welcome. Cornelius Low House/Middlesex County Museum; Piscataway, NJ; 732-745-4489; [www.cultureheritage.org](http://www.cultureheritage.org).

**African American Heritage Walking Tours of Cape May**—Take the tour, as guides relate Cape May’s untold stories. As you walk the west side of downtown, learn about the rumors of Harriet Tubman, the blacks-only beaches and USO, the thriving African-American business, social and religious community, the impact of Urban Renewal and the fate of the segregated Franklin Street School. **Through November 13**; Center for Community Arts, 712 Lafayette Street, PO Box 127, Cape May, NJ; call for times; $10 (adult); $7 (ages 12-6); 609-884-7525; [www.CenterforCommunityArts.org](http://www.CenterforCommunityArts.org)

**Earthen Elegance: African Ceramic Vessels**—The Newark Museum’s latest African art exhibition presents the work of artists from diverse cultures throughout the African continent. The exceptional works on view, all created in 20th century, testify to the continuing vibrancy of one of humanity’s most ancient artistic traditions. The Newark Museum, 49 Washington Street; **through December 31**; Wed 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm, Thurs 12:00 to 5:00 pm, Fri 12:00 to 5:00 pm, Sat 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Sun 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; $7; $3; members FREE; 973-596-6550; [www.newarkmuseum.org](http://www.newarkmuseum.org).

**The Ageless Appeal of Dolls: Our Collection and Yours**—This new temporary exhibit features dolls dating from the early 1800s to the present day; many have special ties to residents in Salem County. Doll enthusiasts will recognize a variety of classic dolls including examples of Effanbees, Greiners, and Bebe Jumeaus. Salem County Historical Society, 83 Market Street; **through May 31, 2006**; Tue 12:00 to 4:00 pm, Wed 12:00 to 4:00 pm, Thurs 12:00 to 4:00 pm, Fri 12:00 to 4:00 pm, Sat 12:00 to 4:00 pm; $3 nonmembers; FREE (members); 856-935-5004; [salemcounty.com/schs](http://salemcounty.com/schs).

**LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS…**

**Gentlemen:**

I am a senior citizen who became addicted to the Civil War almost 40 years ago. I satisfied this addiction by assembling a collection of over 1000 books on Civil War subjects. We recently moved to smaller quarters, and we are interested in selling our books at reasonable prices, far less than what we paid for them.

These books, in excellent condition, date from 1865 to 2000. They reflect biographies of virtually every military and political figure involved with the war, multiple battle histories, much on Lincoln and the assassination and many significant human interest books.

If you or any of your members have any interest in purchasing one or one hundred, or all of these fine books, please contact me. The books are neatly shelved in bookcases in a condo we own in Jamesburg, just off Exit 8A of the NJ Turnpike.

Your obedient servant,
Ron Kane
609-655-0757
THREE NEW BOOKS OF JERSEYANA FROM RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Asbury Park's Glory Days: The Story of an American Resort, by Helen-Chantal Pike

Drawing on photographic evidence and interviews, award-winning author and historian Helen-Chantal Pike brings to light Asbury Park's history during its heydey from 1890-1980. Her epilogue also speaks to the bright future for Asbury Park. $29.95

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The Bridges of New Jersey: Portraits of Garden State Crossings, Steven M. Richman

Steven M. Richman provides a rare photographic and poetic journey across sixty of the state's bridges, ranging from impressive suspension spans such as the Ben Franklin and George Washington bridges to the small wrought-iron and stone bridges that are cherished by local citizens. $24.95

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Family-Friendly Biking in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, by Diane Goodspeed

Do you love bike riding with your kids? Are you tired of rides that take you in circles around the neighborhood block? Looking for something more exciting, yet still safe and manageable? Through years of research and trial-and-error with her own children, Diane Goodspeed gives us the first biking book for this region geared specifically for families with young children. $16.95

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To purchase any of these books, just call Jessica Pellien, Rutgers University Press, 100 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854; 800-446-9323; 732-445-7762, ext. 625; 732-445-7039; http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu

APOLOGIES: In a recent article about the publication of The Pictorial History of Audubon, we omitted the name of committee member Paul Helmes.
WILL YOU PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE LEAGUE NEWS?

Please feel free to share any or all of the articles in this newsletter with your members by printing them in your own publication. If you wish the information in electronic form, just email the administrator, Linda Barth, at barths@att.net and she will be happy to send you any articles you request.

We would also appreciate your announcing the next League meeting in your own newsletter. Please invite your members to join us on October 1st in Denville and at all future League meetings. Thanks so much!

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the year 2004, the Membership Chairman, Dorothy Pietrowski, reports that 197 organizations and 6 subscribers have paid their dues, and we thank them. So far 119 organizations have not yet paid. If you are not sure that your dues are up to date, please call Dorothy at 973-377-7023.

The 2004 Directory is available. It lists all organizations belonging to the League. Send for your copy.

1 copy, $1.00; 2 copies, $1.50; 3-4 copies, $2.50

Just send a check, payable to the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey (LHSNJ) to:
LHSNJ, P.O. Box 909, Madison, New Jersey 07940

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

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<td>Ocean County Historical Society, Toms River</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>Hopewell Valley Historical Society</td>
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<td>October 2006</td>
<td>Closter Historical Society</td>
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<td>March 2007</td>
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We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth. 908-722-7428, barths@att.net, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area.

We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.

IN SEARCH OF OUTDOOR SCULPTURE

Northern Regional Vice-President Jack Chance is conducting a survey of outdoor sculpture in the Garden State. He is currently searching for new memorials to the victims of September 11th as well as any other recently-erected outdoor statues.

If you know of any in your area, or anywhere in the state, please call Jack at 973-763-0155.
The Denville Historical Society & Museum
Invites you to the 2005 Fall Meeting of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Saturday, October 1, 2005
in Denville, New Jersey

Your day begins at the St. Francis Residential Community. Please follow signs to the designated parking areas.

Buffet Lunch - $20 per person
- Assorted Dinner Rolls
- Assorted Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette
- Fresh Fruit Salad
- Chicken Francaise
  (Sautéed Chicken Breast with lemon-wine butter sauce)
- Vegetable Rice Pilaf
- Seasonal Mixed Vegetables
- Assorted Mini-Pastries & Cookies
- Assorted Juices, Iced Tea & Lemonade
- Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, & Tea

St. Francis Residential Community above was established in 1895 by the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother of the Third Order of St. Francis. This magnificent complex was originally part of a farm and “Iron Works” founded by Job Allen around 1730. In the early 19th century, the farm was purchased by Col. Glover of South Carolina who built a mansion on this site in 1816. Parts of Glover’s stately mansion can still be seen within the walls of the current structures. The gothic style chapel was completed in 1916.

AGENDA

9:00 am – Registration at St. Francis
9:30 am – Welcome
9:45 am – League Business Meeting
10:45 am – Break
11:00 am – Guided tour of St. Francis
12:15 pm – Lunch
1:15–1:45 pm – Denville Museum
1:45–3:30 pm – Guided tour of the 2nd Union Schoolhouse (1861) and a short walking tour of the historic Four Corners area of Denville’s Union Hill where you will visit William Penn’s lot (1715) and the remains of the Minisink Trail, retrace Washington’s path to Morris-town in 1777, learn about the Colerain Forge (c. 1740), and take an exterior look at the Casterline House (1782), the Union Chapel (1897), and the 3rd Union School (1908).

NOTE: Buses to the schoolhouse will leave from the Denville Museum parking lot. For those who wish to drive to the schoolhouse on their own, directions will be available at registration.

All sites are handicapped accessible. Contact the Denville Historical Society for more information at 973-625-1165. Questions on the morning of the event? Call: 973-879-9035.

Registration Form due September 15th
One form per person, please

NAME _____________________________________________
ADDRESS _________________________________________
___________________________________________________
PHONE ___________________________________________

$20 check payable to the Denville Historical Society.
Mail to: DHS, P.O. Box 466, Denville NJ 07834
Directions to Denville and St. Francis Residential Community
122 Diamond Spring Road Denville, New Jersey 07834 • 973-627-5000

From Route 80 (Eastbound): Exit 38, Denville, Route 46 East. Go through the first traffic light and immediately get into the left lane. At the traffic light, proceed on the green arrow across the westbound lane of Route 46 and make a right into Denville center. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Diamond Spring Road. Proceed through the next traffic light. St. Francis is the first driveway on your right, opposite the Denville Library and the Denville Museum.

From Route 80 (Westbound): Exit 39 to Route 46 East to the second right, Route 53N (Denville). At the second light, bear slightly right onto Diamond Spring Road. At the next traffic light, proceed through the light. St. Francis is the first driveway on your right, opposite the Denville Library and the Denville Museum.

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey
P.O. Box 909
Madison, New Jersey 07940

Winter Meeting — Toms River, Atlantic County—March 11, 2006
Spring Meeting—Hopewell Valley, Hunterdon County—June 2006

Visit the League at:
www.lhsnj.org