



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 45, No. 3 www.lhsnj.org September 2020

**The Fall Regional Meeting for 2020 has
been postponed until the fall of 2021.**

TIPS FOR OPENING A.S.A.P. by Eve S. Morawski

I hope our members are as THUH-RILLLED as I am about our historical sites throughout the state slowly but surely finding their unique ways of reviving necessarily shuttered properties. We are a diverse and crowded state but with Jersey “can do” we have flattened the curve, allowing for cautious but definite incremental steps to welcome visitors back! YAY!

Some suggestions for the very beginning of this process, akin to a restaurant’s “soft opening,” where one creates a basic plan and tweaks as one goes along...

“A” ANNOUNCE the opening day on all available platforms (more on that in the next newsletter re: social media), aiming for at least three weeks’ notice prior. Continue promoting AND INFORMING. If the community does not know of the property’s existence, this is a great time to develop a succinct description and/or mission statement and GET IT OUT THERE!

“S” SOCIAL DISTANCING is the new lingua covida. In addition to the new rules and regulations dictating capacity constraints, (over) prepare with items to show visitors the site is handling things professionally, i.e. readily available hand sanitizer, extra masks. Keep doors open when possible to minimize surface contact opening and closing. One property I visited had branded pens one could sign the guest book with and take home as a souvenir, avoiding communal touch.

“A” is for making folks AWARE of what is going on and what is available. If there is an admission fee or donation (strongly!) requested, do not be shy about it, but DO let visitors know. So far I have noted generous response because people value the effort taken and opportunity given to explore an interesting space that is likely new to them. Post on the website and Facebook page whether restrooms are open, if parking is on-site or nearby, mask policy, tours available (timed entry?), etc. One cannot overinform in these precarious times; people appreciate info.

“P” PEOPLE. Visitors: yes, of course we want them. But this is a GREAT opportunity to recruit volunteers! Many more peeps are home and seeking outlets for pent up energy! Theirs AND their kids! Need property maintenance? Carpentry, painting, landscaping, organizing? None require professional licenses. Getting enthusiastic help for some of

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SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

Winter 2021—Camden County Historical Society/Camden County History Alliance, Camden County

June 2021—South River Historical & Preservation Society, South River, Middlesex County

Fall 2021 — Paterson Museum and the Paterson Museum Foundation, Paterson, Passaic County

We are optimistic that health conditions will ease and will allow us to hold the above meetings. Fingers crossed. We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth, 908-240-0488, barthlinda123@aol.com, 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.**

The Officers and Directors of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

President (2020)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

First Vice President (2020)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar-Bodine House Museum

Vice President, Northern (2020)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Vice President, Central (2020)

Brian Armstrong
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Durand-Hedden House

Trustee, Northern (2020)

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Jeffrey McVey
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Trustee, Central (2020)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2020)

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Ocean County Historical Society

Trustee, Southern (2020)

Ralph Cooper
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Trustee-at-Large (2020)

Patricia Wells
Township of Chatham Historical Society

Trustee-at-Large (2020)

Donald Katz, Esq.
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2020)

James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township Library

The following are valuable members of our board, but are not elected positions:

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth, 908-240-0488;
barthlinda123@aol.com

Membership Chairman

Jennifer Coultas
Boonton Historical Society

Publications Awards Committee

Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar-Bodine House Museum

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush
Dorothy Pietrowski

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DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 15, 2020. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barthlinda123@aol.com.

Material submitted electronically should be in WORD format. Photographs will be scanned and returned. Digital photographs should be submitted in .jpeg or .tif.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER



We are happy to report that during the month of April, six League members took advantage of the PastPerfect discount and bought new or updated software for their organization.

Those participating were :

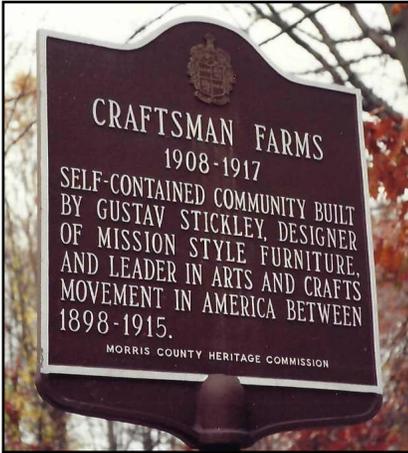
- Bradley Beach Historical Society**
- Edison Memorial Tower Corporation**
- Historical Society of Moorestown**
- Pequannock Twp. Historical Society**
- Somers Point Historical Society**
- William Trent House – Trent House Association**

Regional League Meetings

By Linda Barth

Like many of you, I have missed attending our three regional meetings this year. We hope to reschedule them in 2021. In the meantime, here are a few memories of meetings in years past.

In November of 1991 we visited the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms in Parsippany-Troy Hills. We toured Gustav Stickley's early 20th-century estate and visited the Log House. Here are a few images.



In June of 2009 we were hosted by the Historical Society of Ocean Grove, where we took a walking tour of the historic district. In addition, we visited the society's museum, the Main Street shopping district, and the Jersey Shore Arts Center. Among the highlights were tours of one of the tent homes (photo left) and Centennial Cottage (below).

On March 8, 2008, the Long Beach Island Historical Society hosted the League. We saw a film about Barnegat Light and

visited the LBI Museum (below right), Barnegat Lighthouse and Museum, and the Beach Haven Library.



We look forward to visiting our members' sites in the near future, when the pandemic ends, and we can travel around our beautiful state. Fingers crossed that it will be soon.

THE NEW·JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A LIFETIME WORKING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

One of the New Jersey Historical Society's strongest core values is the belief that history, both the good and the bad, can inform and inspire the people of our state. The good can inspire us to follow the examples of those who have gone before while the bad can help us resolve to do better in the future. With that in mind, this is another sample of the many remarkable stories found in our collections.

Throughout her long life (1872-1958) Mary Philbrook worked tirelessly for women's rights and other social issues. Educated in the Jersey City public schools, Mary became the secretary of lawyer James Minturn, a future justice on the New Jersey Supreme Court. Recognizing Philbrook's ability, Minturn suggested she become a lawyer and nominated her for acceptance to the state bar. The nomination was referred to the state supreme court which ruled that since admission to the bar was a privilege not a right, legislative action was required. Not easily deterred, Mary worked with women's rights groups for the necessary legislation, which was approved in March of 1894. Philbrook passed the bar exam with high honors, became New Jersey's first female lawyer and eventually the first New Jersey female attorney to appear before the United States Supreme Court.

After a long career of working for women's rights, Mary was certainly entitled to a leisurely retirement, but that was not in her nature when there were rights to be secured. During the 1947 New Jersey state constitutional convention, Philbrook at age 75, campaigned for an equal rights amendment to secure equal rights for women in the broadest possible way. While the convention did not accept the amendment itself, it did agree to change all references to men to *people* or *persons*. Although Mary did not live to see it, in 1978 the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled the change made gender discrimination illegal in our state.

The New Jersey Historical Society is fortunate to hold a collection of Mary Philbrook's papers, the bulk of which relate to her historic efforts on behalf of the equal rights amendments. By any definition, this remarkable woman was a New Jersey hero who never gave up, no matter the obstacles, nor how long it took. Her story should be an inspiration to every generation of New Jersey citizens. We at the New Jersey Historical Society are proud to be able to preserve and tell her story.



Since 1986, Rutgers School of Law has presented the
MARY PHILBROOK PUBLIC INTEREST AWARDS.

Why? Because of Mary's path-breaking achievements as New Jersey's first woman lawyer, her role in obtaining the equal rights provision of the 1947 New Jersey state constitution, and her outstanding career as an advocate for social justice and equality.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR ASSEMBLY, No. 3201
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE
ADOPTED JUNE 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
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Assemblyman ANTWAN L. McCLELLAN
District 1 (Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland)

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON
District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Zwicker, District 16
SYNOPSIS

**Recognizes Howell House in Cape May as
Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey.**



AN ACT recognizing the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey and supplementing chapter 9A of Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

WHEREAS, The Macedonia Baptist Church was officially recognized as a Baptist church by the West New Jersey Baptist Association on December 23, 1895 and was organized to provide a place for African-American residents of the city of Cape May to practice their faith together; and

WHEREAS, The Macedonia Baptist Church continues to meet today in its historic church building, part of which dates back to 1799, on the corner of Lafayette and Franklin Streets, in a neighborhood that contains most of Cape May's civic institutions, and that was the core of the city's African-American society for much of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, Next to the church stands one of Cape May's oldest houses, the Howell House, which was built in 1850 and willed to the church in 1909 by its former owner, Philadelphia Quaker Joseph Howell, and has been used as a parsonage until only a few decades ago; and

WHEREAS, The house has been acknowledged as "a contributing resource to the Cape May National Historic Landmark district," and in 2012, was declared one of New Jersey's top 10 endangered historic structures by Preservation New Jersey, a statewide private historic preservation organization; and

WHEREAS, On December 16, 2018, the church signed a lease with developers Robert and Zack Mullock that permitted the Mullocks to renovate the Howell House into a museum honoring Harriet Tubman, which opened virtually on June 19, 2020, a date recognized as "Juneteenth" to commemorate the announcement by Union Army General Gordon Granger of federal orders that enslaved persons in Texas were free; and

WHEREAS, The museum showcases Harriet Tubman's role as a champion of civil rights and the time she spent in Cape May in the 1850s, earning income to support her efforts in the Underground Railroad, a network of safe houses designed to help African-American slaves escape into free territories; and

WHEREAS, Given New Jersey's role in allowing safe passage for many on the Underground Railroad and the significance of Harriet Tubman's contribution to the freedom of dozens of people, supported by her time in Cape May, it is altogether fitting and proper that this State recognize the Howell House on Lafayette Street in Cape May, New Jersey as the Harriet Tubman Museum in New Jersey; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS The New Jersey Postal History Society

www.NJPostalHistory.org

The New Jersey Postal History Society was established in 1972 to study and explore the many aspects of New Jersey postal history. The society produces an award-winning quarterly journal, which publishes articles on a variety of subjects relating to this theme.

While our interests are guided by the parameters of the mail—what was carried, how it was carried, etc.—our journal often touches on local history relating to the covers we explore.

Each piece of mail is a doorway to the past, often giving a more personal view of a community than the history books provide. We invite you to share in the many articles that we have published in almost 50 years – most are available online and provide a wealth of information.

Many of the members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey offer a local point of view on history. For our members, the many resources offered by local historical societies are often a great help in uncovering the mysteries we encounter in correspondence. We offer in return the availability of the postal history of localities around New Jersey and can supply you with postmaster lists and location files. Feel free to contact us for help.

On our web site, you will find an almost complete run of our journals, publicly available at no cost, and an interactive title index is available here, <https://www.njpostalhistory.org/media/pdf/njphindex1-216interactive.pdf> to find specific towns or subjects. Other significant files for download are also available. Just visit www.NJPostalHistory.org to see if something might be helpful to you. Our interests run from the Colonial Era to the Modern – and everything in between, be it railroads, rural free delivery, county postal histories, or simply the story of hometown post offices - it is all there!

Should you have old letters and correspondence to share, we would welcome hearing from you. Our members may need your help from time to time, and we look forward to a mutual sharing of information.

Every year (with the exception of this one, due to Covid-19) we meet annually at NOJEX, a national level stamp show. We always maintain a table at that show. Feel free to come and ask questions; we will be glad to help you find items that may be useful in your search for local correspondence. Our web site will have information when the next show will happen. In the meantime, feel free to communicate with our officers for any information we can provide.

Sample copies of our journal are available at these links: February 2020 issue NJPH, <https://www.njpostalhistory.org/media/journal/217njphfeb2020.pdf> and May 2020 issue NJPH. <https://www.njpostalhistory.org/media/journal/218njphmay2020.pdf>

Officers of the society are:

Robert G. Rose, President: President@NJPostalHistory.org	E. E. Fricks, Vice-President VicePresident@NJPostalHistory.org	Jean Walton, Secretary Secretary@NJPostalHistory.org
Andy Kupersmit, Treasurer Treasurer@NJPostalHistory.org	Warren Plank, Webmaster webmaster@NJPostalHistory.org	

Dues are \$15 a year – consider joining! See our web site at www.NJPostalHistory.org for membership forms.

NEW JERSEY POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY. INC.

Web site : www.NJPostalHistory.org



Zenaide and Charlotte Bonaparte pictured reading a “stampless folded letter” in a painting by Jacques-Louis David, painted in 1821. It pictures the two daughters of Joseph Bonaparte, who was living in exile in Bordentown, N.J. at that time. Both daughters would join him for a time at his Bordentown estate, Point Breeze. Charlotte even painted a number of views around New Jersey from that early period. (From our February 2011 issue of *NJPH*, our quarterly journal.)

Local Artists Display the History of Raritan Borough by Tim Rack

The Raritan Historic and Cultural Committee applied for and received a grant from the Somerset Regional Center Partnership for projects to enhance Somerset Street, our main street. One of the committee's ideas was to cover existing benches along Somerset Street with scenes depicting the history and story of Raritan.

The committee requested input from local artists and received ten designs, all of which were accepted. These designs included: the John Basilone Parade; the Star Mill; the historic Anderson Street Fire House; Washington School; a Blue Heron found at Duke Island Park; a 1922 American LaFrance pumper fire truck; a 1904 Holloway combination chemical engine and hose wagon; the first hotel in Raritan; the original train station; and an early scene of downtown Somerset Street. These were printed onto vinyl, which was then applied to the public benches.

Five artists participated in the project: Jennifer Guarino, Tara Mastromihalis, Julie Gallagher, Kathleen Madigan and John Laiefer. In addition, Jennifer and Tara were chosen to paint a mural depicting some of Raritan's history on the front of the Mangia Buono Catering building on Somerset Street.

The Raritan Historic and Cultural Committee thanks them all for their wonderful contributions. The committee, led by President Jim Fidacaro, hopes to solicit more artists to cover an additional 10 benches, once the pandemic crisis finally ends.



This bench honors Gunner Sgt. John Basilone, Raritan's WWII hero and the only enlisted Marine in World War II to receive the Purple Heart, the Navy Cross, and the Congressional Medal of Honor.



The Raritan Relief Hose Co. 2, built in 1894, is now in the National Register of Historic Places.



The Star Mill

League Welcomes New Trustees to the Board

In the past few years, the League has welcomed a number of new members to its board. Here's a bit about them.



Donald Katz, one of our trustees-at-large, is a semi-retired attorney residing in East Brunswick. He has a long history of charitable, governmental, professional, and political service. Don, an Eagle Scout, is on the Executive Board and serves as a volunteer attorney for the Monmouth Council, BSA. He presently serves as a commissioner of the Middlesex County Board of Elections and is the longest serving State Committeeman on the NJ Republican State Committee. He also serves as Election Overseer for Central New Jersey Mensa and served as a regional and chapter officer of Phi Alpha Delta Legal Fraternity and as a co-chair of the Real Estate Committee of the Middlesex County Bar Association.

Don is a charter member of the Proprietary House Association and is a member of the Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance and the New Jersey Scout Museum.

He serves, or has served, as the volunteer attorney for the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County, the 200 Club of Middlesex County, the East Brunswick Regional Chamber of Commerce and its charitable foundation and as an officer or director of numerous other charitable and community groups. He has received numerous awards and recognitions for his service, such as the Silver Beaver Award from the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America and induction as a member of the Perth Amboy High School Hall of Fame.

Hannah Kerwin, secretary of the LHSNJ Board for the past two years, grew up in Monroe Township, surrounded by her ancestors' mahogany furniture. Her parents were active in historic preservation groups, including East Jersey Old Town, and Hannah assumed she would pursue similar endeavors. Awaiting inspiration and opportunity, she studied at the College of Wooster (OH), Case Western Reserve University (OH), and New York University and worked as a librarian in Middlesex, Ocean, Morris, and Somerset Counties. She currently manages the Watchung Library.

Early in her 15 years as director of the Bound Brook Memorial Library, Hannah became interested in providing access to information about the Revolutionary-era graveyard adjacent to the library. She described this experience in the New Jersey Library Association's *Chronicle*, winter 2019 issue, pages 5-8. (<http://njlamembers.org/sites/njlamembers.org/files/Chronicle%20Winter%202019.pdf>.) A densely illustrated, scholarly yet entertaining two-volume study co-created with library colleague Mary C. Nelson, *The Old Presbyterian Graveyard, Bound Brook, New Jersey: A Resource* delves into church and town history, symbolic stone imagery and evocative epitaphs. It received the 2018 History Publication Award from the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Hannah added a separate photographic directory of the gravestones, *Stone Portraits*. (Free downloading at <https://sclsnj.org/graveyard/>.)

She is a longstanding member and former board secretary of New Amsterdam Singers, a Manhattan ensemble that performed at the White House in 2010 and 2012. Hannah is now conducting the premiere inventory of the Historic Dey Farm in Monroe Township.



Jeff Schenker is the vice-president of the Ocean County Historical Society. A resident of Lacey Township, Jeff has a Masters Degree in History from Monmouth University and a doctorate in history from Drew University. He taught history in the Toms River school district, including over 20 years teaching Advanced Placement, and is currently an adjunct professor of history at Ocean County College.

Jeff is close to completing a book on New Jersey's involvement in World War I. He has presented numerous programs on New Jersey during World War I and on the D-Day invasion.



Patricia Wells is currently the vice-president of the Chatham Township Historical Society, which maintains the Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum. She is a retired nuclear medicine technologist and educator (taught both nuclear medicine technology and horseback riding). She has authored/co-authored two textbooks and several journal articles.

Since retirement Pat has been able to pursue her love of history, putting her writing and education background to work for the Chatham Township Historical Society. She also maintains a garden that is a certified habitat for wildlife and butterflies. Summer is given over to raising monarch butterflies. Pat and her sister Martha live in the 250-year-old Noe Farmstead.

Eve Morawski joined our Board as a Trustee-At-Large and has now assumed the position of Northern Region Trustee. Her home base is the Durand-Hedden House, Maplewood's historical society (durrandhedden.org). She is a proud Jersey Girl born (Rahway), raised (Maplewood), and educated (Rutgers, AFROTC, Eagleton Institute).

Eve worked on Wall Street and at political jobs in Washington, DC and Albany. She spent several years living in Hawaii after graduate school (MBA Wharton) where she confused her friends who thought she was saying “Dinah Shore” when heading to the beach. Almost fell out of her car when a Hawaiian police officer yelled: “Hey Jersey! What exit?” before she had the chance to change license plates.

She has been a museum docent and/or tour guide most places she has lived, as well as being active in stray rescue. Areas of particular interest: Hudson River School of art, suffrage, Revolutionary War history, and WWII History (her parents were both veterans). While giving (pre-pandemic) occasional weekend tours of Manhattan, she invites skeptical New Yorkers to “come on over and see us some time. Really! You can WALK to the Newark Museum from the train station!” (And when they do visit, they are s h o c k e d at how awesome it is!)

Eve is our social media liaison and encourages our members to post their events to the League’s Facebook page: “Let us know what you are up to!” so we can help share and promote. (She is also looking for a fulltime job and would love something related to history]. You can write to her directly at LHSNewJersey@gmail.com.



TIPS FOR OPENING A.S.A.P.
by Eve S. Morawski
 (continued from page one)

the outstanding “to do” projects goes a long way in sprucing up a site and creating a great impression. And hopefully the rookies will stick around and become more involved, generating new ideas and helping with future events!

Some folks will remain wary, either waiting to open their properties at all or will do so in a limited way (grounds, but no interior spaces). But with fewer choices available, people are searching for things to do and exploring where they may not have thought to go, pre-pandemic. Capture this audience! New Jersey has as diverse a repertoire of historic attractions throughout the state as there are potentially diverse guests. Truly, something for everyone’s interests. Here’s to relaunching: A.S.A.P.!

[1st of 3 articles]

Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association Visitor Center Coming This Year Visitor Center Construction to Begin at Grover Cleveland Birthplace, Caldwell



The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association (GCBMA) is proud to announce that after many years of planning and development, the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Visitors Center will be built this year. The contractor, Santorini Construction, Inc., has been approved by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, the agency that manages the State Historic Site at 207 Bloomfield Avenue,

Caldwell. Grover Cleveland is the only president to have served two non-consecutive terms. He was the 22nd and 24th president.

Completing a project in the works for the last ten years, the GCBMA has been working with the State of New Jersey to build a new visitor center and many agencies have been involved, including the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Division of Parks and Forestry, the N.J. Department of the Treasury and the Division of Building and Construction.

A planning grant awarded to the GCBMA from the N.J. Historic Trust, combined with funds provided by the GBMA, paid for the architectural design, survey, permits, soil testing, stabilization, and other planning costs. When completed, the GCBMA will furnish the birthplace and equip the center. Funding of these construction expenses was made possible with state money as well as donations, membership fees, and fundraising activities organized by the GCBMA.

The Visitor Center will provide space for educational programs about Grover Cleveland and his role in American history, a gift store, additional museum displays, meeting rooms, and restrooms. It will serve as a reception area for individuals and school groups when visiting the birthplace. The circa 1832 birthplace is the “Old Manse” of the First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell where Cleveland’s father served as the minister.

The Visitor Center will be a very welcome addition to New Jersey history and tourism. First, it is a heritage tourism site, which has grown from 600 to 6,000 visitors a year. Second, it will be able to serve more people with visits from school classes, senior citizens, and tourists who want to see the attraction and an example of suburban America in a historic downtown. Third, the center will provide a meeting place for civic groups, historical and cultural organizations, and expanded programming for the community. The current phase will provide space to host 49 guests and visitors to the birthplace within the newly constructed visitor center, which wraps the existing Carriage House. The visitor center will provide much-needed meeting room, gift shop, exhibit space, and accessible restrooms. The next phase will focus on the restoration of the Carriage House itself, which will be connected to the visitor center and serve as another large meeting space and lead to an increase in visitor capacity to 106 guests and visitors further supporting interpretive programming at the Birthplace.

Early in the 20th century the home was purchased by private citizens to be a museum in honor of Grover Cleveland. In the 1930s, the museum was given to the State of New Jersey by the original GCBMA to maintain. Since the 1980s, the current GCBMA has served as a private non-profit corporation to help promote the birthplace and the legacy of Cleveland in the context of New Jersey history.

The grand opening ceremony will be in the spring of 2021. The historical architects are Connolly and Hickey from Cranford, N.J.

C.A.P.E.S. to the Rescue

Do you know about the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (C.A.P.E.S.) ?

For more than 30 years we have consulted with historical organizations across the Garden State.

► This is a free, grant-sponsored program, jointly promoted by the New Jersey Historical Commission and the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference.

(continued on the next page)

(continued from the previous page)

- ▶ C.A.P.E.S. funds an on-site visit by a professional archivist.
- ▶ Clients receive a written report with preservation and organization recommendations.
- ▶ No application deadline -- apply any time

The survey includes reviewing and providing recommendations for improvements in the following areas; physical facility (environmental factors, fire and security protection), storage (shelving and containers), reformatting materials (microfilm/digitization), collection arrangement and description, and policies. A detailed report will be provided and can be used to support other grant applications.

To be eligible, you must have collections that are open to the public and relate to New Jersey history. Only archival materials (books, papers, maps, photographs, audio-visual) are surveyed. Government archives are not eligible.

You may contact the CAPES Coordinator at 732.923.6646 or capescoordinator@gmail.com with questions.

Slate of Candidates For LHSNJ 2020 Election

- President - Tim Hart 2022*
- First VP - Brian Armstrong 2022
- Northern VP - Jane McNeill 2022
- Central VP - Mary Swarbrick 2022
- Southern VP - Bruce Tell 2022*
- Secretary - Hannah Kerwin 2022
- Treasurer - Pary Tell 2022
- Historian- James Lewis 2022
- At-Large Trustee - Pat Wells 2024
- Northern Region Trustee - open 2020
- Northern Region Trustee - Eve Morawski 2024
- Central Region Trustee - Jeff McVey 2024
- Southern Region Trustee - Ralph Cooper 2024

There is one open position. Those indicated with an * cannot serve another term beyond this one.

If you are a member of the League or if your society is a northern region member, you may want to consider applying for the vacant board position.



Clio Muse
TOURS

Virtual Museum Tours

Some of our member societies have produced virtual tours of their museums and/or exhibits. Board member Ralph Cooper has suggested that Clio Muse is one way to learn how:

Self-Guided Virtual Experiences — Clio Muse virtual experiences combine award-winning audio tours with a great selection of real satellite and street view images of the monument and its surroundings. Move forward, backward, turn towards and gain an interactive 360° experience in the world's fascinating cultural wonders, as if you are really there. No special equipment or apps needed. You can view them on your browser.

Not sure where to start from? Get a short experience and start today!
www.theclio.com (Correction: web address in the April issue was incorrect.)

OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Dear League Members,

We hope that you will patronize our business supporters. Please consider inviting retail or commercial businesses to become Business Members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and support our mission of promoting the preservation of the historical heritage of New Jersey by stimulating among member organizations the development of programs, projects, and publications that celebrate this heritage.

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“Organization Essentials” Workshop

BOOK A WORKSHOP FOR YOUR GROUP AND THOSE IN YOUR AREA. LEARN THE BASICS NEEDED FOR BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION.

Agenda:

9:30 Registration and continental breakfast

10:00—12:00 **Your Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Developing Your Long Range Plan** Your mission statement is the heart of your organization. Is it clear and concise? Do your Board and your members know exactly what you are all about? What does the future hold for your organization? Does your mission statement attract interested donors? Do you know where you are headed? This workshop will cover these basic documents that are critical for the success of any organization and are an important part of any grant application.

12:00—1:00 Buffet lunch (included in registration)

1:00—3:00 **The Budget and Financial Reports** Are you applying for or considering applying for grants? Do you want to attract large supporters? It’s not enough to say how much you want; you have to say why you want it. And your financial information must be in “good order.” This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget and required financial reports as well as the various financial form required for grants or support requests. To stay on firm footing, you need an annual budget developed by your Financial Committee and approved by your Board. How do you plan for income and expenses? What are the state and federal filing requirements: What do you need to do to attract donors, supports and grant funding? This workshop will cover getting your financial house in good order.

Who should attend: Board Members, Directors, Grant Writers

Workshop presenter Pary Tell is the retired head of the Division of Culture & Heritage for Cape May County where she oversaw their arts and history grants program, conducts workshops for local non-profit cultural organizations, and offers assistance to arts and history organizations in organization fundamentals. The workshops are designed especially for smaller organizations that are striving to address their concerns on organization stability and growth. The workshops are small and informal with plenty of time for questions and group interaction.

PLAN A WORKSHOP WITH OTHER SOCIETIES NEAR YOU. YOU CAN CHOSE BOTH WORKSHOPS FOR A FULL DAY OR EITHER ONE FOR A HALF DAY SESSION. THEN CALL PARY TO CHOOSE A DATE.

Registration

Registration fee is \$25 per person. Please make check payable to LHSNJ and mail to LHSNJ, c/o Pary Tell, 397 Corson Lane, Cape May NJ 08204.

Name: _____

Organization _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

If you are registering more than one person from your organization, please fill out a registration form for each person.

Any questions, please email parytell@gmail.com or call 609.886-8577

Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Publication Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. Works by individual members are not eligible to be considered. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2020. Entries must have been authored or published by the society. Republications will not be accepted. In the case of newsletters, only one issue per organization should be submitted for consideration. Five copies of each entry are due no later than January 31, 2021. They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone message at 908-534-4600 or email jnvgt6@gmail.com with questions. A cover letter must accompany all submissions. The letter will include a contact email. In the case of newsletters only, the letter should state the frequency of publication and whether or not it is available online.

**For this year, we are only accepting
newsletter entries.**

NEWSLETTERS

Front Page:

Frequency of publication?

Front/back pages

Is it eye-catching?

Does it clearly identify the name of the group,
the site, the date, the location?

Is there a web address given?

Contents:

Does it contain articles that add to our historic knowledge or understanding of a topic?

Does it encourage participation in the organization's activities? Does it encourage membership?

Does it contain articles about events that are current (or were at the time it was published)?

Does it review previous activities and successes?

Does it promote other heritage tourism? Does it promote other sites? Does the group partner with other sites?

Can it be viewed online?

Pictures:

Do they have historic or cultural value?

Are they clearly labeled and credited to the photographer?

Graphic quality—Are they eye-catching?

Contact Info:

Is it easy to contact the group or editor for more information? Is there an address, phone number, and/or email to contact?

It's easy to become a member of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey!

Simply visit us at www.lhsnj.org and click on "Join the League." On the drop-down menu, choose your membership type and complete the form. Choose your method of payment and click "Submit."

If you would prefer a printed form, just contact Linda Barth at barthlinda123@aol.com or 908-240-0488, and she will mail a form to you.

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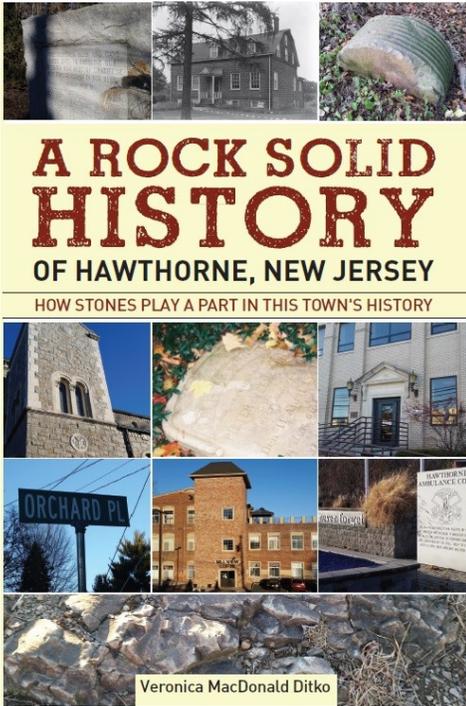


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NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne, New Jersey By Veronica MacDonald Ditko



Children learn best through tangible objects like rocks. *A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne, New Jersey* explores the history of Hawthorne through rocks and inspires school-aged youngsters to look at their surroundings, learn from what they can touch and see, and keep searching for more. The book runs from prehistoric times to present day in Hawthorne with compelling language, photos, and go-get-'em encouragement. Children will not even realize they are absorbing history and learning some earth science along the way.

Veronica MacDonald Ditko is a lover of history and has written many articles of local interest in New Jersey. Even more important to her is sharing this information in compelling language for both adults and children. *A Rock Solid History of Hawthorne, New Jersey* is her first published book. Veronica has also written for newspapers in Massachusetts and New Jersey, as well as mainstream, business and trade magazines. She is the face behind the longtime “An Accidental Anthropologist” blog in Northern New Jersey in which she explored why we do what we do with Seinfeld-esque humor. She is a proud graduate of UMass, Amherst, and wrote for *The Daily Collegian* while at the school. She also contributed to collegiate newsletters while studying abroad at the University of Wales Swansea. Follow Veronica on Facebook at “Veronica MacDonald Ditko, Writer.”

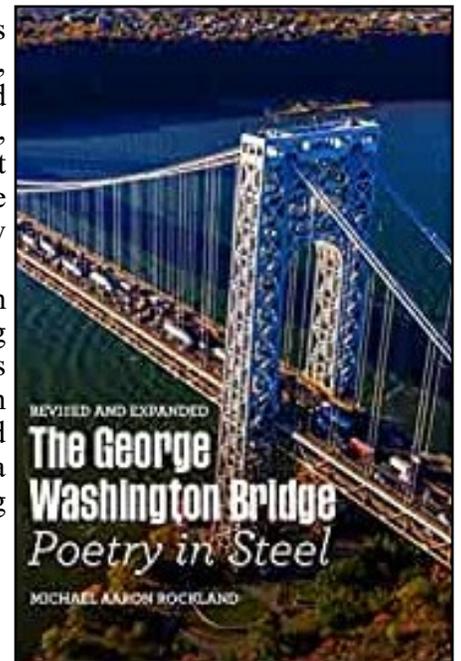
The George Washington Bridge: Poetry in Steel Michael Aaron Rockland

Intimate and engaging, Michael Rockland’s rich narrative presents perspectives on the GWB, as it is often called, that span history, architecture, engineering, transportation, design, the arts, politics, and even post-9/11 mentality. Stunning archival photos from the late 1920s, when the bridge was built, through the present are a powerful complement to the bridge’s history. Rockland covers the competition between the GWB and the Brooklyn Bridge that parallels the rivalry between New Jersey and New York City.

Readers will learn about the Swiss immigrant Othmar Ammann, an unsung hero who designed and built the GWB, and how a lack of funding during the Depression dictated the iconic, uncovered steel beams of its towers, which we admire today. There are chapters discussing accidents on the bridge, such as an airplane crash landing in the westbound lanes and the sad story of suicides off its span; the appearance of the bridge in media and the arts; and Rockland's personal adventures on the bridge, including scaling its massive towers on a cable.

\$29.95 (hardcover)

200 pages, 32 illustrations, 6 x 9



NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

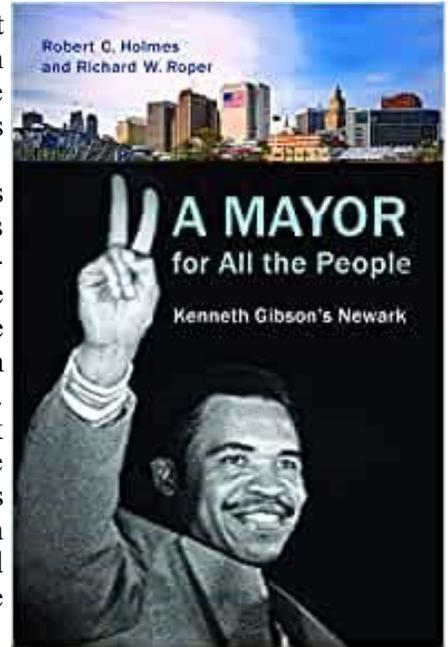
A Mayor for All the People: Kenneth Gibson's Newark **Robert C. Holmes and Richard W. Roper**

In 1970, Kenneth Gibson was elected as Newark, New Jersey's first African-American mayor, a position he held for an impressive sixteen years. Yet even as Gibson served as a trailblazer for black politicians, he presided over a troubled time in the city's history, as Newark's industries declined, and its crime and unemployment rates soared.

This book offers a balanced assessment of Gibson's leadership and his legacy from the perspectives of the people most deeply immersed in 1970s and 1980s Newark politics: city employees, politicians, activists, journalists, educators, and even fellow big-city mayors like David Dinkins. The contributors include many of Gibson's harshest critics, as well as some of his closest supporters, friends, and family members—culminating in an exclusive interview with Gibson himself, reflecting on his time in office.

Together, these accounts provide readers with a compelling inside look at a city in crisis, a city that had been rocked by riots three years before Gibson took office and one that *Harper's* magazine named "America's worst city" at the start of his second term. At its heart, it raises a question that is still relevant today: how should we evaluate a leader who faced major structural and economic challenges, but never delivered all the hope and change he promised voters?

Available from Rutgers University Press and Amazon.



AMC's Best Day Hikes in New Jersey: Four-Season Guide to 50 of the Best Trails in the Garden State, from the Skylands to the Shore



This brand-new title from the Appalachian Mountain Club's trusted *Best Day Hikes* series is your indispensable guide to the 50 top treks in the Garden State, all doable in a day or less. Whether you're an avid hiker or seek adventure in your own backyard, this must-have resource covers all of New Jersey—the northern Skylands, the northeastern Gateway near New York City, the Jersey and Southern shores, the Greater Atlantic City area, and the Delaware River—revealing remarkable natural beauty in the midst of a densely populated region. Explore the urban-adjacent, 4,269-acre Ramapo State Forest, with its views of the New York City skyline; hike New Jersey's famous Pine Barrens; stroll seaside in Hartshorne Woods Park; and tackle the rugged landscape along the Appalachian Trail in High Point State Park. You'll find hikes for every skill level.

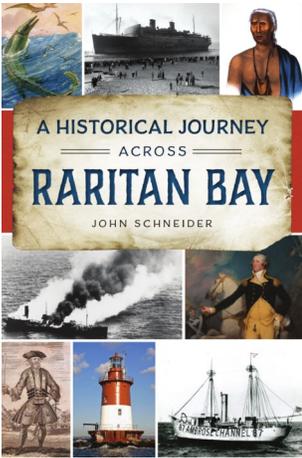
An at-a-glance trip planner highlights the best options near public transportation, as well as those for kids, dogs, and winter snowshoeing and skiing. With GPS coordinates for every trailhead, turn-by-turn directions, and information on time, distance, and difficulty for each hike, as well as enriching essays about the area's natural and social history, this is your quintessential guide to uncovering and

exploring the hidden gems of a verdant landscape.

Inside You'll Find:

- 50 recommended hikes for all ability levels
- GPS coordinates for every trailhead
- Locator map and at-a-glance trip planner for easy selection
- Detailed maps showing parking areas, trails, and natural highlights
- Summaries of time, distance, and difficulty level for each trail
- Hiking and safety tips, including what to carry in your pack
- Essays on the flora, fauna, and historic landmarks of the region

A Historical Journey Across Raritan Bay By John Schneider



The historic Raritan Bay stretches from Staten Island to Sandy Hook, including the beach communities of Monmouth County. With its proximity to New York City and Jersey shore attractions, the bay region has been the setting for compelling moments throughout American history.

The native Lenape harvested oysters and fished the waters along the bayshore generations before Dutch and English colonists reached the coasts. Local slave Titus Cornelius, or Colonel Tye, escaped from bondage and led Loyalist forces in raids to destabilize the area during the Revolutionary War.

Steamships traversed the bay carrying hordes of vacationers from New York to newly established resorts along the “Riviera of New Jersey” in the early twentieth century.

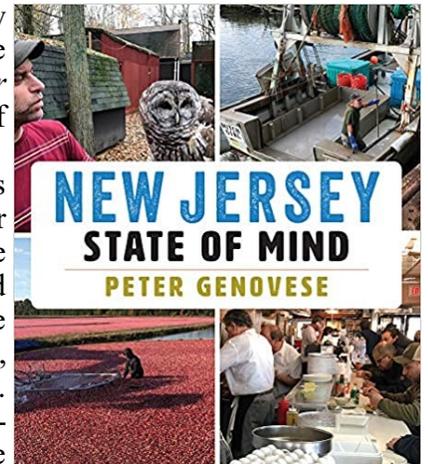
Climb aboard as author John Schneider takes readers on a historical journey across Raritan Bay.

New Jersey State of Mind By Peter Genovese

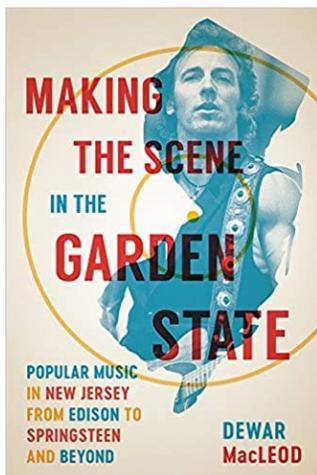
No state has been so frequently mocked, maligned, or misunderstood as New Jersey. Yet the state is filled with amazing places and people who rarely receive the media attention they deserve. For the past twenty years *Star-Ledger* columnist Peter Genovese has been one of the rare voices singing the praises of his state’s hidden wonders and gritty charms.

For this new book, Genovese spent months scouring the state for rich stories and fascinating locations. *New Jersey State of Mind* takes us on a journey to over twenty-five of these places and introduces us to the colorful characters who live and work there, from a demolition derby driver to a female craft brewer, and from a Cuban celebrity chef to a Portuguese pig breeder. He also reveals the many natural wonders that have earned New Jersey its “Garden State” nickname, from cranberry bogs to river tours to wild bird sanctuaries.

Collectively, these pieces paint a picture of a diverse state full of hard-working individuals who care for their communities. This book cuts through the myths and stereotypes surrounding the state and reveals the proud beating heart of the real New Jersey.



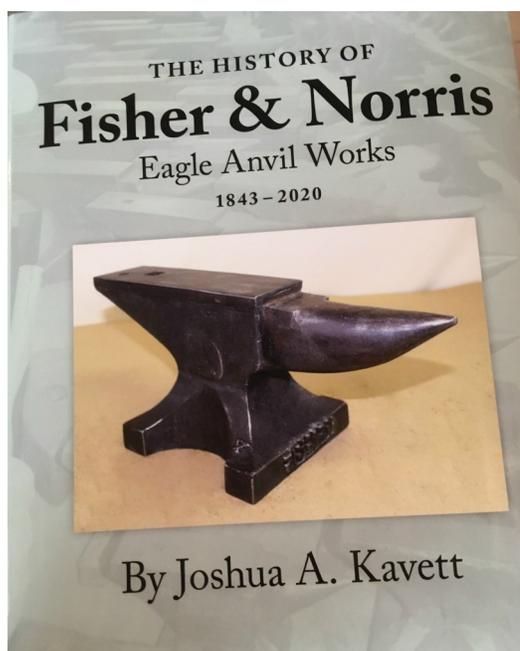
Making the Scene in the Garden State By Dewar MacLeod



Making the Scene in the Garden State explores New Jersey’s rich musical heritage through stories about the musicians, listeners and fans who came together to create sounds from across the American popular music spectrum. The book includes chapters on the beginnings of musical recording in Thomas Edison’s factories in West Orange; early recording and the invention of the Victrola at Victor Records’ Camden complex; Rudy Van Gelder’s recording studios (for Blue Note, Prestige, and other jazz labels) in Hackensack and Englewood Cliffs; Zacherley and the afterschool dance television show *Disc-o-Teen*, broadcast from Newark in the 1960s; Bruce Springsteen’s early years on the Jersey Shore at the Upstage Club in Asbury Park; and, the 1980s indie rock scene centered at Maxwell’s in Hoboken.

Concluding with a foray into the thriving local music scenes of today, the book examines the sounds, sights and textures of the locales where New Jerseyans have gathered to rock, bop, and boogie.

The History of Fisher & Norris—Eagle Anvil Works, 1843-2020 By Joshua A. Kavett



This book details the history of Fisher & Norris from the 1800s to the present day, through images of their products, explanations of the technologies they developed, and stories of the individuals involved.

This intriguing story includes connections to many turning points in American history and is the first time that a comprehensive account of this company has been compiled in such meticulous detail. All copies are signed and numbered.

Mr. Kavett, a retired industrial arts teacher, has amassed a private collection of over 600 anvils in Monmouth County. In addition he has hundreds of vises, metalworking tools, and related objects.

Don Plummer, the author of *Colonial Wrought Iron*, *The Collection of James C. Sorber* and *Anvils Through the Ages*, *The Collection of Tim Kris*, has reviewed Joshua's book:

What a joy to finally see this book in print! Many of us familiar with his collection and museum have long awaited it. Joshua Kavett now presents us with a splendid history of a highly regarded American industrial enterprise. Josh does this through a huge collection of equipment, photos, letters, various documents and relics of all kinds, that help him deliver the heart and soul of this fascinating company. I dare say there are few workers in metal and ma-

chines of any kind who have not heard of Eagle anvils. Anyone who takes delight in the American history of industry will love this book.

This book is written by a man who fell in love with a company, and he treats it with gentle respect and fondness. By the time you have finished the second chapter you will have a warm, intimate affection for the Fisher and Norris families.

Joshua writes in a relaxed, informal and easy-to-understand style. The stories, tales, history, events and descriptions just flow along smoothly. The chapter on anvils is a major achievement in observation and application of intellectual study. Joshua has identified and interpreted probably every variance in Fisher anvils throughout the entire 135 years of their production. And he has done it in such an easily readable way, through photographs and descriptions. This gives you a genuine appreciation of how change occurs over many lifetimes.

The book is clearly an in-depth look at anvils and anvil making. But Joshua also introduces us to many other activities associated with that process. There are invoices and receipts, hand-written documentation, production reports, and advertisements. Fisher and Norris also made other items, and they are brilliantly shown and described: swage blocks, anvil carts, parallel leg vises, railroad track joints and miniature anvils to name a few. And then there are the anecdotes, notes on family travel, and the 1400-pound anvil at the 1876 World's Fair.

Joshua has spent a significant portion of his life researching, traveling, viewing, collecting, studying and documenting this company. He is the singular authority and owner of all this information and objects. And now we also have it, and it is a treasury of high-quality photographs and down-to-earth writing. As Josh himself says: There is so much here "that it takes time to absorb it all." Indeed, how true. You can randomly open this book to any page and be delighted with what you find.

I have come to dearly appreciate these individuals who collect, study, interpret, photograph, and document their collections. Collections are transitory, here today and gone tomorrow. **Collectors and collections exist for but a brief time and the collections can never be re-assembled again.** Josh has given us a look at a segment of American industrial history that is utterly fascinating as well as an historical treasure. Thank you, Joshua A. Kavett.

To purchase a copy of his book or to visit the museum, please contact the author by email at njanvilman@gmail.com.