



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 36 No. 1

www.lhsnj.org

January 2010

**Winter Meeting
Cumberland County
Historical Society,
Greenwich,
Cumberland County
March 27, 2010**

Information and registra-
tion form on page 19-20.

A MAJOR NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL RESOURCE IS NOW ONLINE

Princeton University's project to organize, archivally house, catalog, and scan all 16,000 sheets of its historic collection of Sanborn Company fire insurance maps of New Jersey has been completed. Accelerated last year with a New Jersey Historical Commission grant, the work has been in progress since 2003. Many deserve credit. Princeton students, part-time during the academic months and full-time during the summers, have done a major part of the housing and scanning work, particularly Heidi Lam '08, Drew Dixon '09, Nate Bickford '09, and Laural Huchel '10. The Princeton University library digital studio, run

by Roel Muñoz and his dedicated staff (Erika Eggleston, Mary Marrero, Nicole Robinson, Joanna Tully), contributed about half of the images. All of the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) cataloging of the sheets was done by Gail Smith, a senior bibliographic specialist in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collection. Wangyal Shaw, Princeton's GIS librarian, handled the loading and processing of the digital files, and has recently implemented a new, simple-to-use, high-resolution viewer for the images. The starting point to the online maps is this Excel spreadsheet: <http://libweb.princeton.edu/libraries/firestone/rbsc/aids/sanborn/sanborn-web.xls>

Here, all the sheets are listed in alphabetical order by county, then by town/city, then chronologically by date. Each town or city link leads to a town/city website that lists each individual sheet, grouped by year. Princeton, for example, has Sanborn sheets for 1885, 1890, 1905, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1918, 1927. Clicking on the individual sheet brings up its high-resolution digital image. Copyright restrictions prevent us from showing online images of post-1922 maps, but even those are listed on these websites and can be viewed in person in our department's reading room in Firestone Library. If the sheet or year is not represented, we don't have it. A good way to get an idea of which sheet you need to see is to start with an "overview" sheet, if one is provided in the list.

All the Sanborn records are also available by searching in Princeton University library's online catalog. There is one record for each city/town/year. A URL in that record will also bring you to the town/city's website. One easy way is to browse the maps in a subject search, using a phrase like "maps-new jersey."

My recommendation to New Jersey historical societies and other institutions with anticipated high level interest in these maps: copy and paste the Excel spreadsheet on your pc. Then you will have instant access to these wonderful maps. We will be making small cosmetic changes to the town/city websites in the future, but the links in the spreadsheet won't be affected, nor those from the actual sheets. Feel free to make links to the town/city websites.

For those of you New Jerseyans who have never looked at a Sanborn fire insurance map: Do so now, for you've been missing out on a truly fabulous resource for tracking the historic development of your own community! Your own home or place of business may be on the map!

As a realist, I must expect that there will be issues/problems accessing some of the maps some of the time, but I'm also hopeful that they will be small and diminish over time!

John Delaney, Curator, Historic Maps Collection, Princeton University Library, 1 Washington Road, Princeton, NJ 08544; 609-258-6156

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

Listed below are your officers and trustees:

President (2010)

J.B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

First Vice President (2011)

Catherine Sullivan
Victorian Society

Vice-President, Northern (2010)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Vice-President, Central (2011)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice-President, Southern (2010)

June Sheridan
Atlantic County Historical Society

Secretary (2010)

Judy M. Aley
Chesterfield Historical Society

Treasurer (2010)

Dorothy M. Andrew

Trustee, Northern (2010)

Dorothy E. Johnson
Oakeside-Bloomfield Cultural Center

Trustee, Northern (2010)

Betty Hardy
Madison Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2010)

Jeffrey McVey
Lambertville Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2010)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2010)

Sonia L. Forry
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Trustee, Southern (2010)

Jean C. Lacey
Toms River Seaport Society

Trustee-at-Large (2010)

Timothy Hart
Barnegat Bay Decoy & Baymen's Museum

Trustee-at-Large (2010)

Robert R. Longcore
Andover Historical Society

Historian (2010)

Sylvia Mogerman
Phil Kearny Civil War Round Table

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

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, NJ 08876; 908-722-7428; barths@att.net

Membership Chairman

Dorothy Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush, Ruth Kane Fern

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From the President's Quill

As you have heard and read, we on the board of the League were stunned to learn of the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Kevin Hale. His death left a void on the board that could not be filled by any one person.

At times like this we realize that we take for granted the wonderful contributions of our members. We think Kevin knew how much we appreciated him. We brought him chocolate donuts and such, we cheered his preservation successes, but we never actually said the words to tell him how important he was to us. We hope he knows.

While no one can ever take Kevin's place, in October, just before our fall membership meeting in South Orange, Judy Aley, of the Chesterfield Historical Society, agreed to serve as Interim Secretary. At the November board meeting, I asked Judy and she agreed to accept the appointment as secretary for the remainder of Kevin's term. We are so thankful to Judy for jumping right in, taking the minutes and distributing them, and helping us provide a smooth transition.

We hope you will all welcome Judy at our meeting in Ocean City in March.

JB Vogt, President
jbvogt@comcast.net

DEADLINE: Submissions for the April issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than March 15, 2010. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barths@att.net.

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

GEORGE CHAMBERLAIN HOUSE IN JEFFERSON PLACED ON NJ REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

It is with great pleasure that I announce that the Jefferson Township Museum has been placed on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places and has been nominated for the Federal Register. The museum is located at 315 Dover-Milton Road in Jefferson Township and is open on the first Sunday of each month, 1-4 pm, and by appointment. The George Chamberlain House is a one-and-one-half story, Second Empire-style public building, built circa 1878-1880, which houses the Jefferson Township Museum, run by the Jefferson Township Historical Society. The interior of the house recreates life at the time. The first floor has a parlor and a dining room. There are three rooms on the second floor.

After much research into the first family of the house, one room is dedicated to the children of the family. In the kitchen is "Miss Elizabeth's Shoppe" (named after the first bride of the house, Ruth Elizabeth) which features hand-crafted items, baked goods, and antiques, all displayed on period kitchen pieces. We are also very lucky to have a Museum Garden Club, whose members have established and care for Victorian gardens (Miss Elizabeth's Gardens) surrounding the building. Check out our new website, www.jthistoricalsociety.org.

Christine Williams
President, Jefferson Township Historical Society

LEAGUE ELECTION

During the October meeting at Montrose Park, we conducted the election for the 2009-2010 year. Elected were Catherine Sullivan, Victorian Society, for the position of First Vice President and Mary Swarbrick, Fellowship for Metlar House, as Vice-President, Central Region.

ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2010 — NOTE RULE CHANGES

The board of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey has voted to change the name of its **ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS** to the **Kevin M. Hale Publication Awards, in honor of our late secretary.**

All members should be aware of two new rules that will be in effect for the 2010 awards:

- 1) Each member organization may submit an entry in only ONE category.**
- 2) No works of fiction may be entered.**

Works published in 2009 are not subject to the new rules.

The League invites its member organizations to submit entries. Awards will be given for works published in the year 2009, in the following categories:

**BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSLETTERS, JOURNALS, CALENDARS,
POSTERS, and OTHER MEDIA (AUDIO CASSETTES/CDs,
VIDEO CASSETTES/DVDS)**

For works published in 2009, the awards will be presented at the league meeting in **June 2010** in Perth Amboy. The deadline for submission of entries is **JANUARY 31, 2010**. Please send your entries to: **Publication Awards Committee, League of Historical Societies of NJ, c/o New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102.**

There is no entry form. Simply include a brief note describing your submission. For further information, contact Linda Barth, Executive Director, LHSNJ, at 908-722-7428, barths@att.net, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876. Please **DO NOT** send entries to this address.

NEW JERSEY CIVIL WAR HERITAGE ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP

With the sesquicentennial of the Civil War almost upon us, the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association's (NJCWhA) state-sanctioned Civil War 150th Anniversary Committee is on schedule to produce its first publication on New Jersey's role in the conflict. The book, *New Jersey Goes to War: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans Caught Up in the Struggle of the Civil War, including Soldiers, Civilians, Men, Women, Heroes, Scoundrels -- and a Heroic Horse*, edited by Joseph Bilby, and with two dozen contributors, is ready to go to the printer.

The NJCWhA submitted a publication grant application to the New Jersey Historical Commission, but that avenue was unfortunately closed when the grant budget was drastically slashed to meet state budget shortfalls. In response the organization has decided to appeal for public donations to fund the publication. It is the committee's aim to have this book on every NJ library, historical society, school and Civil War-related organization's book shelf by spring.

The NJCWhA is a completely volunteer organization, with no paid employees, founded over a decade ago. The group has successfully sponsored other projects, including the preservation of New Jersey's Civil War flags as well as Civil War documents in the state archives. The NJCWhA is a federally-recognized 501c3 charity, and all tax-deductible donations will be used strictly for publication purposes.

Those donating \$100.00 will received an autographed copy of the book, and donors of \$250 will receive the book plus a NJ Civil War 150th Anniversary golf shirt, but any amount, no matter how small, will be deeply appreciated. To make a donation via PayPal, use this link:

https://www.paypal.com/cgi-bin/webscr?cmd=_s-xclick&hosted_button_id=10533684

Donations may also be mailed to NJCWhA P.O. Box 442 Wood-Ridge, NJ 07075. Please write "150 bios project" on the memo line. For more information on the NJCWhA, and its 150th Anniversary Committee, see: <http://njcivilwar.com> & <http://www.njcivilwar150.org/index.asp>.

Joe Bilby

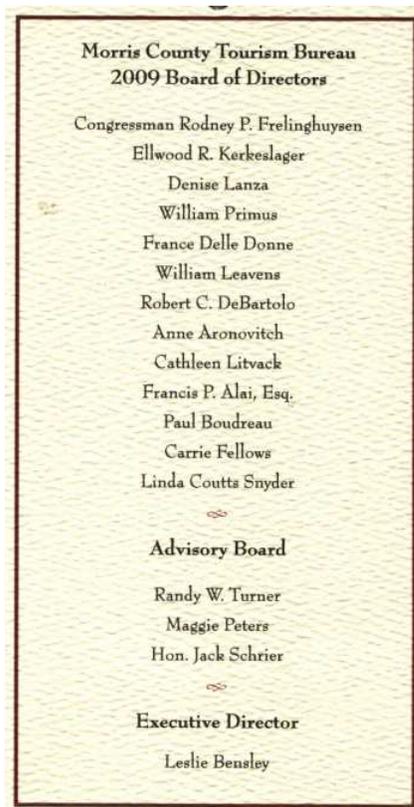
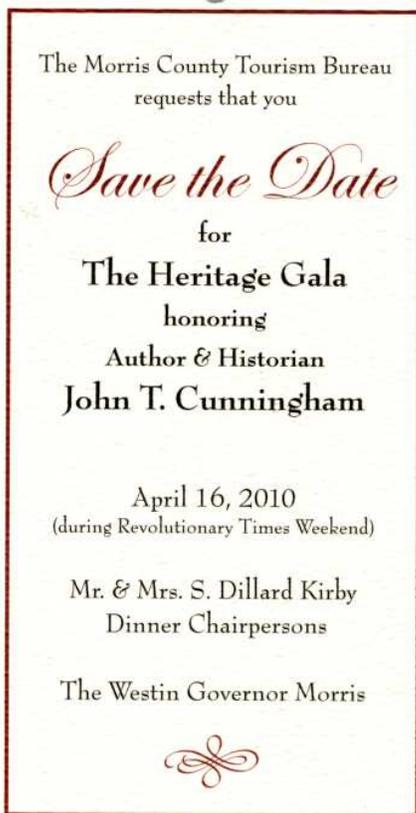
NINTENDO WII ADDED TO NAS WILDWOOD AVIATION MUSEUM FOR USE AS EDUCATIONAL TOOL (and a Little Fun!)

Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum recently added a Nintendo Wii gaming system to its expanding interactive exhibit area. The Wii was introduced to the public on October 22, and it will be used as an educational exhibit in coordination with Aviation and World War II-themed games. Initial reviews from those in attendance included "awesome," "fun," "challenging," and "cool." NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum has always been on the cutting edge in the area of "edutainment." The game is free to play for anyone with paid admission to the aviation museum. The exhibit will also be used at birthday parties held at historic Hangar #1.

NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum boasts over 26 aircraft displays as well as exhibits of military memorabilia, engines, photographs, interactive exhibits that allow visitors to discover the science of flight, and more. Hours of operation are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm everyday rain or shine. Don't forget to bring your camera!

Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum is located in Historic Hangar No. 1 at the Cape May Airport, formerly Naval Air Station Wildwood, which served as a World War II dive-bomber training center. The museum is dedicated to the 42 airmen who perished while training at Naval Air Station Wildwood between 1943 and 1945.

Cindy Craft, Chief Financial Officer, NAS Wildwood Aviation Museum, 500 Forrestal Road, Cape May County Airport, NJ 08242; 609-886-8787



IN MEMORIAM: KEVIN M. HALE

It is with much sadness that we share with you the news of the passing of Kevin Hale, the secretary of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. In August Kevin broke his arm and the next month suffered a pulmonary embolism. He passed away in September. We share with you these words from Trustee Emeritus Bernard Bush:

I am shocked, just as all our colleagues in the League and the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society are, by the sudden death of this good man. The president of his local society, Walter Stochel, has aptly described Kevin's fine work as a local historian, his lifelong love of learning, and his intense dedication to New Jersey history and historic preservation. I worked with him for over ten years in the League, since he joined the board as secretary in the early 1990s, and I can attest to those qualities.

Kevin truly loved his town and its history, but his interest in the whole state of New Jersey was equally impressive. Whenever he heard of an important new book about New Jersey history, he had to have a copy for his home library. If he learned of any important educational program about the state's history, he had to be there if it was possible. And he had to share these things with his colleagues. His decision to acquire professional training for the field of historic preservation, while at the same time holding a full-time job and engaging in all of his local history activities, was extraordinary indeed.

After I left New Jersey in 2004, Kevin was among those colleagues with whom I corresponded from time to time. He would tell me historical news or offer information relevant to my research--a kindness for which I was grateful. In August he wrote telling me about a new film on the history of the Bordentown Manual Training School. He added notes about the progress of the League, about a new book on Newark, and about his plans for retirement when he reached his sixties. His dream, he said, was to begin a new career as a professional historic preservation consultant. What a splendid career that would have been.

What I have said thus far concerns the public man, and there are sufficient reasons therein to praise him. But what adds to the shock and pain is that Kevin's personality made him a beautiful man--a man of grace, modesty and courtesy, a fair and compassionate man, a man of conscience. In all the years that we worked together I never saw him act unkindly or arrogantly to anyone. He seemed to possess some eternally youthful innocence that made him act as if he expected all the world to behave like ladies and gentlemen.



SAVE THE DATE! SPIRIT OF THE JERSEYS STATE HISTORY FAIR!

The 2010 Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair is set for Saturday, May 1st at Washington Crossing State Park, Titusville from 11am-5pm. Please visit the website, www.njhistoryfair.org for updates and general information. Inquiries can also be made to Historyfair@dep.state.nj.us.

Last spring 153 exhibitors and twelve food vendors registered; this was the highest number to date. Of this number, 145 participated (the morning rain kept some organizations from coming). Forty of the registered number were new to the fair.

Beverly A. Weaver, Supervisor, Office of Historic Sites, 609-777-0238

WHAT IS THE CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ASSOCIATION?

Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area and Association

Our state of New Jersey has more than 500 farmlands, hillsides and homesteads that played some part or saw some action in the American Revolution. Our Revolutionary War heritage - perhaps more significant than that of any other state - has been federally recognized by the designation of the Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area in New Jersey.

The Crossroads of the American Revolution Association (Crossroads), a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, has been appointed by the federal government to work with heritage area residents, local and state governments, and other interested organizations to unify and promote New Jersey's National Heritage Area. That area includes 213 cities and towns within fourteen counties, thirteen National Historic Landmarks and more than 250 indoor and outdoor spaces on the National Register of Historic Places. The New Jersey Heritage Area brings together classic schoolbook sites like the Old Barracks at Trenton, which Washington captured on December 26, 1776, and other essential sites like the Monmouth Battlefield State Park, where the largest artillery battle of the Revolutionary War was fought, and Morristown National Historical Park, where Washington and the Continental Army endured two winters, including the harshest one of the 18th century.

By helping preserve, unite, and promote these sites, Crossroads is expanding the public's knowledge about the people, places and events that transformed American history. We at Crossroads believe we are also creating a sense of pride about New Jersey's role in the birth of the United States of America.

Now Online Crossroads of the American Revolution Guide to New Jersey's Revolutionary War Sites

An interactive, online version of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Guide to New Jersey's Revolutionary War Sites was launched recently by the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association. The guide provides an introduction to the buildings, battlefields and encampment sites whose stories contribute to our understanding of New Jersey's significant role in the birth of a new nation.

Cate Litvack, executive director of the Crossroads Association said, "Thanks to funding from the National Park Service and the Department of State, Division of Travel and Tourism, an online version of the Crossroads Guide is now available to complement the print version published last year."

Printed guides are available for five dollars at a number of historic site gift shops and book stores throughout the state as well as travel plazas on the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. The guide is also on the shelves in libraries throughout the New Jersey.



VISIT GREENWICH, NEW JERSEY

The Greenwich Tea Party Monument — Corner of Ye Greate Street and Market Lane

On December 22, 1774 – a year after the Boston Tea Party – a group of twenty-three Cumberland County men conspired to have a little tea party of their own. The planning began when the British brig *Greyhound* was rerouted from its destination of Philadelphia. Its cargo of tea was unloaded and stored at the storehouse of Loyalist Dan Bowen in Greenwich for safekeeping.

Word spread, and a committee of patriots was formed to discuss how to deal with the matter. A group of more militant young men decided to take matters into their own hands. The group included eight sets of brothers, cousins and relatives – the Elmers, the Ewings, the Fithians, the Howells, the Hunts, the Newcombs, the Piersons, and the Seeleys. Most of them met at the Howell house in Shiloh and rode to Greenwich where they met the Fithians. Disguised, they broke into Bowen’s storehouse and carried the tea to Market Square where the monument stands today.

There they started a bonfire and celebrated while the village gathered around. Several of the suspected tea burners were brought before the grand jury, but insufficient evidence could not bring an indictment. Many of the tea burners went on to great things. Almost all served in the Continental Army or the New Jersey Militia. One became governor, one the first federal senator from New Jersey, many state assemblymen.

In 1905, at the same time plans were being made to erect a monument to commemorate the Tea Burning in Greenwich, the Cumberland County Historical Society was organized as a non-profit corporation. These charter members organized the society in order to apply to the Board of Freeholders and the State Legislature for funds to erect a monument in Greenwich to the memory of the brave patriots who burned the tea on December 22, 1774.

The headquarters for the society has been in the village of Greenwich since the 1940s. As the site of the Tea Burning, it deserves a place in history books, but when the county seat was moved from the village to Bridgeton in 1748, Greenwich was frozen in time.

Record of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Civil War, 1861-1865
NOW AVAILABLE AT ARCHIVES WEBSITE

I’m exceedingly pleased to announce, on behalf of New Jersey State Archives, that we have just posted a new website providing access to 82,467 entries from Adjutant General William S. Stryker’s *Record of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Civil War, 1861-1865*. This addition to the Archives’ “Searchable Databases” site complements the State Library’s electronic version of the 1876 publication. Collection Management Archivist Vivian Thiele created the new database with a search engine that allows for multi-field searching and yields up to 500 results per search. The search engine also allows the user to order copies of service records directly from the State Archives.

As we approach the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, this resource will, undoubtedly, prove to be a major boon to historians and genealogists researching the war and its servicemen. It and the Civil War Treasury Vouchers database (with nearly 114,000 entries providing access to documentation on soldiers’ and survivors’ pay, wartime procurement and subsistence paid to families) radically advance the accessibility of archival material on New Jersey in the Civil War.

The “Stryker’s” database is available at:
<https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/StrykerCivilWar.aspx>

The Vouchers database is available at:
<https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/CivilWarVouchers.aspx>

With best regards,
Joseph R. Klett, Deputy Director for Archives, New Jersey Division of Archives & Records Management

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Please say thanks to our advertisers by patronizing their businesses throughout the state. Invite businesses in your area to advertise in the *League News* for publicity around the Garden State. Remind them that over **55,000 members** will see their ad. Business owners may contact Linda Barth at 908-722-7428 or barths@att.net. Our advertising fee schedule:

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Ron Bogdan of Princeton buys various high school yearbooks. If you or your organization receive donations of such books from any sources in your town, please consider turning them into cash donations from him.

Ron can be reached at ronb124@yahoo.com or 866-444-1656.

You can visit his website, www.getmyyearbook.com, to learn more.



PUBLICATION OF NEW JERSEY HISTORY MAGAZINE RESUMES—ONLINE

The New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the New Jersey Department of State, is pleased to announce the publication of volume 124, number 1, the Fall 2009 issue of *New Jersey History*. Publication of the journal has now resumed after a hiatus of several years.

Founded as the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society* in 1845, *New Jersey History* is now an online journal, published and hosted by Rutgers University Libraries, in partnership with the New Jersey Historical Commission, Kean University, the New Jersey Historical Society, the New Jersey Digital Highway, and Rutgers University Press.

Volume 124, no. 1 includes essays on the history of women's education, historical archaeology, and political history, in addition to a new cartographic survey of historic canals in the state and reviews of noteworthy recent scholarship on the state and region. All contents of the journal are available online, free of charge, at <http://njh.libraries.rutgers.edu>. All articles and reviews published in *New Jersey History* are licensed under a Creative Commons agreement, allowing them to be duplicated and shared without restriction as long as proper attribution is made to the original source.



New Jersey History will publish online twice a year – in the fall and spring. Submissions to the journal should be scholarly articles (fully documented) but aimed at a non-specialized audience. The editorial staff welcomes essays from all disciplines, including law, literature, political science, anthropology, archaeology, material culture, cultural studies, and social and political history, bearing on

any aspects of New Jersey's history. We are also interested in documents, photographs, and other primary source material that could be published with annotations. For further details, email the editor, Peter Mickulas, at peter.mickulas@gmail.com.

NEW JERSEY STUDIES ACADEMIC ALLIANCE AWARDS GARDEN STATE BOOKS

The New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, an organization which promotes the teaching, projects, and sharing of materials dealing with New Jersey studies, provides awards to the best nominated books that concentrate on various aspects of New Jersey studies. Nominations are accepted from January 1 through April 30, the awards committee deliberates over the late spring and summer, and awards are announced in the autumn.

The winners for 2009 are:

For the Non-Fiction Scholarly category:

John Fea. *The Way of Improvement Leads Home: Philip Vickers Fithian and the Rural Enlightenment in Early America*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008.

For the Non-Fiction Popular category:

Michael Aaron Rockland. *The George Washington Bridge: Poetry in Steel*, New Brunswick: Rivergate Books, 2008.

For more information about the awards and the NJSAA, see:

1. Past winners of the NJSAA author awards:

<http://sites.google.com/site/njstudiesacademicalliance/Home/njsaa-author-award-award>

2. The 2009 guidelines for nominations:

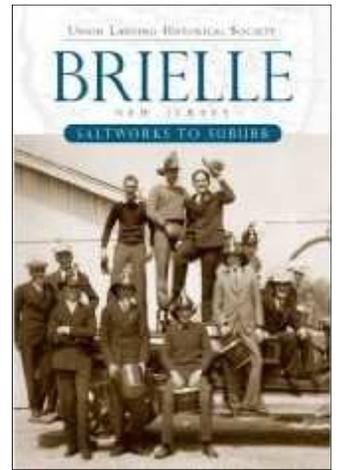
<http://sites.google.com/site/njstudiesacademicalliance/Home/njsaa-author-award/author-award-criteria>

3. The NJSAA's mission and other activities: www.njsaa.org. Thank you to all of our Author Award Committee members, Prof. Maxine Lurie, and Bonita Grant for making these awards happen.

NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

Brielle - Saltworks to Suburb

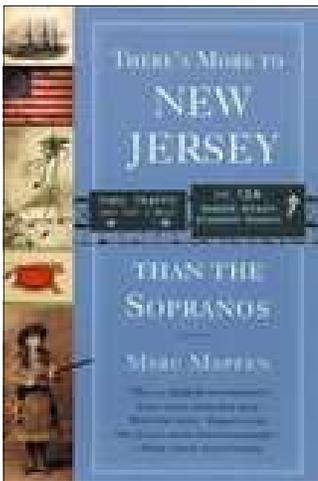
In September 2009, the Union Landing Historical Society released its latest book, *Brielle - Saltworks to Suburb*. Two years in the making, this book comprises a complete history of Brielle and the Brielle area from the time of the Lenape Indians to the present day. Illustrated with over 80 photographs, some of which have never been published before, the book contains anecdotes about Brielle history and first-hand accounts of early Brielle from long-time residents. Learn about Brielle's part in the Revolutionary War, the story of Abraham Osborn and his descendants, the formation of the Borough of Brielle in 1919, a Prohibition-era unsolved murder, and the genesis of the "Sportfishing Capital of the World."



Published by the History Press, the book is available for \$21.99 plus tax from the Union Landing Historical Society. Write to us at ULHS, P.O. Box 543, Brielle, NJ 08730 or order online at www.briellehistory.org.

There's More to New Jersey than the Sopranos

In this lively romp through history from the primitive past to the present day, Marc Mappen's message resonates—*There's More to New Jersey than the Sopranos*. Real tales, wise tales, tall tales abound throughout the pages of Mappen's collection, filled with zest, humor, scandal, and occasionally tragedy. Figures such as Annie Oakley, Ulysses S. Grant, Benedict Arnold, Ezra Pound, Shoeless Joe Jackson, and many others share a common bond: New Jersey. The state also witnessed prehistoric elephants roaming



its terrain, the explosion on the *USS Princeton*, a Martian invasion, and famous firsts like the phonograph, electric light, and movies. And step aside Tony Soprano: mobster Al Capone really did stroll along the Atlantic City boardwalk. Providing a lens into American history through lively prose and more than twenty-five illustrations, *There's More to New Jersey than the Sopranos* is as much fun as a trip to the Jersey Shore and definitely more rewarding than a night home watching television—simply stated, this book is one you can't refuse to read. Dr. Marc Mappen has been described by *The New York Times* as "the eminent New Jersey historian." He is the co-editor of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* and author of *Jerseyana: The Underside of New Jersey History*. He has written over 100 articles and essays in publications that include *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Rutgers Magazine*, and *New Jersey Heritage*. He has been interviewed on the History Channel and National Public Radio. Dr. Mappen has a Ph.D. in American History, and prior to his retirement, was a dean at Rutgers University.

1609: A Country That Was Never Lost

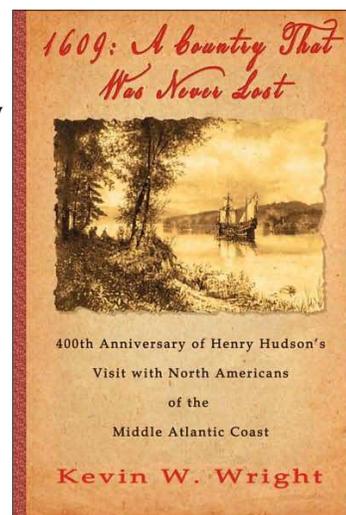
American History Imprints is pleased to announce the publication of *1609: A Country That Was Never Lost – The 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's Visit with the North Americans of the Middle Atlantic Coast*, by Kevin W. Wright, New Jersey historian and author.

Profit in silk and spices lured them into Arctic straits, but the chilling reality of the Little Ice Age blocked their passage. Therefore, Henry Hudson and his mutinous crew turned westward armed with vague charts and supposed sightings of the Indian Ocean across a narrow sandy isthmus. Upon their arrival, crowds of curious Manhattans greeted them in canoes made from tree trunks. Dressed in animal skins and mantles woven of turkey feathers, they offered corn, beans, oysters, tobacco, hemp, grapes and pumpkins in trade for cloth, metal tools, and trinkets.

Mining contemporary sources, historian Kevin W. Wright has carefully reconstructed the native world that

Henry Hudson encountered during his fateful voyage of 1609. In so doing, he dispels the fog of nineteenth and twentieth century myths to rediscover the North Americans of the Middle Atlantic coast. Describing their original homelands and culture in great detail, he brings the panorama of culturally diverse native societies to life. These were truly the First Americans, inclined to live “almost all equally free.” Could their natural democracy lie at the heart of the American spirit?

The Hudson Quadricentennial marks the birth of the Dutch colony of New Netherland upon the Hudson and Delaware rivers and the dawn of history for Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, and Connecticut. But as early as 1656, Dutch commentator Adriaen van der Donck wondered how Christopher Columbus or Amerigo Vespucci could have discovered “a country that was never lost.” Through these pages readers step back in time for a visit with ancient Algonquian and Iroquoian communities, including the original Mannhattans, the Minisinks of Bachom’s Country, the Lenape of the Schuylkill estuary, the Mahicans, Susquehannocks, Mohawks and others whose names have been lost in the mists of time. *1609: A Country That Was Never Lost* includes a comprehensive bibliography, extensive endnotes, and a complete index.



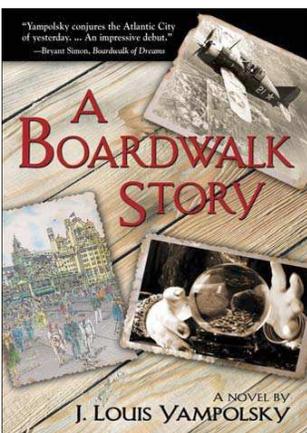
Born in Newton, New Jersey, Kevin Wright was attracted, even as a child, to the history and legends of Sussex County. After graduating from Rutgers, he engaged in historical interpretation at the restored village of Waterloo in 1977, becoming tour director in 1979. As curator of the Steuben House, a Revolutionary War landmark in River Edge, he built up a large interest and attendance, working with the Bergen County Historical Society. In 1982, he and Alex Everitt successfully led the fight to preserve the 1848 Sussex Courthouse and Newton's oldest streetscape. In 1985, his research brought worldwide media attention to New Jersey’s claim of sovereignty over Ellis and Liberty islands. He became the first resource interpretive specialist for the northern region of New Jersey in 2000 and was central to the visioning process for Historic New Bridge Landing, Lusscroft Farm, and the State History Fair.

Kevin Wright is a past president of the Sussex County Historical Society and of the Bergen County Historical Society. He has been a member of the Newton Historic Preservation Advisory Commission since 1987. He and his wife, art director and graphic designer Deborah Powell, have three children.

To request a review copy of the book, or to schedule interviews, book signings, or appearances with Kevin Wright, please email dkane@Americanhistoryimprints.com.

A Boardwalk Story

Lifelong accountant J. Louis Yampolsky spins a remarkable tale of Depression-era Atlantic City in his stunning first novel, *A Boardwalk Story*. Described by the publisher as “an 80-something accountant and financial manager with a rare gift for storytelling,” Mr. Yampolsky has made “1939 Atlantic City come alive in this remarkable novel,” according to novelist and screenwriter Alan Trustman, who penned the screenplays for *The Thomas Crown Affair* and *Bullitt*. He said, “*A Boardwalk Story* is made to order for the movies!”

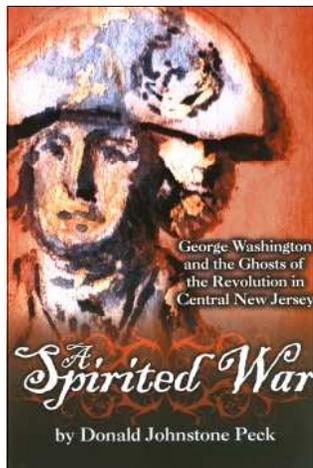


This vivid, coming-of-age tale is set in the tenth year of the Great Depression in America, as Europe stands on the brink of war. In Atlantic City, 15-year-old Jack Laurel’s life is turned upside down by an almost magical convergence of people and events. A mysterious boardwalk entertainer inspires a love of literature, a feud with neighborhood bullies escalates, and innocence is lost. As the annual influx of summer tourists floods the boardwalk, Jack stumbles into commodities trading with two men—one a reclusive mystic, the other a charismatic pitchman and mathematical savant. Inspired by the musings of a boardwalk fortuneteller, the three partners are poised to reap unimagined profits. But a house of cards is about to come down around them and,

with it, the wrath of Atlantic City's iron-fisted mob boss.

"Thirty years ago, I published historical novels almost exclusively," said John B. Bryans, Yampolsky's editor at Plexus, "and from the first page of *A Boardwalk Story* I knew it was something special." Bryans described his astonishment to learn that the author was a lifelong accountant with no professional writing experience. "Here is a first-time author whose characters, dialogue, and situations are wholly authentic ... who instantly transports you to a faraway place and time ... and who can give a history lesson without the reader even realizing it," Bryans said. "Who knew an accountant could write like this? Not me."

A Spirited War: George Washington and the Ghosts of the Revolution in Central New Jersey



New Jersey has recently been hailed as the Crossroads of the American Revolution. This is a fitting designation, given that General George Washington spent the majority of his time in the colony, and engaged the British in several decisive battles within its borders. In fact, a large portion of the War for Independence may be said to have been won in the counties of Middlesex, Somerset, Monmouth and Mercer, where shifting loyalties and local resistance on both sides presented a constant challenge to the combatants.

Have all physical vestiges of the Revolution vanished from the Garden State? Not at all. In fact, the reader will be pleasantly surprised to discover that many historic sites still do exist, places that offer us a genuine glimpse into the spirited war of the times. Donald Peck and his companion Jane Doherty lead us on an in-depth tour of many of these sites, each interpreting the facts from their individual point of view. As historian and psychic, they provide a fresh analysis of events that took place in the area, along with explanations of the personalities involved in them. The result is a very readable

and exciting narrative, one that affords us an entirely new perspective on the past that surrounds us.

Besides George Washington, readers will discover that other Revolutionary War heroes were associated with Central New Jersey, among them Benjamin and William Franklin, John Adams, Aaron Burr, Nathanael Greene, Charles Lee, and the Marquis de Lafayette. Numerous battles also took place on its soil, including Washington's Retreat across New Jersey in 1776, the crucial Battles of Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth in 1776-1778, the Battle of Springfield in 1780, and the celebrated march to victory with the French, led by the Comte de Rochambeau, in 1781. New Jersey truly was the Crossroads of the American Revolution, and *A Spirited War* will prove it!

Format: 6" x 9" perfect bound on acid-free white paper. 206 pages, illustrated. ISBN 10: 0-9842256-2-5 ISBN 13: 978-0-9842256-2-0 LCCN: 2009938285. Price: \$18.95.

Donald Johnstone Peck is an alumnus of Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, with a major in history and French, including studies in political science at the Institute of Political Studies of the University of Paris, France, 1960. Professionally, he is the president of The Clausen Company, Inc., Fords, NJ, a leading manufacturer of automotive refinishing products for the automotive aftermarket and past president of the National Association of Autobody Filler Manufacturers, 1983-1986.

Non-professionally, he is a commissioner for the Woodbridge Historic Preservation Commission, central region trustee for the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, immediate past president of the Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance, Inc., a life member of the Proprietary House Association, Perth Amboy, and since 2003, president emeritus, having served on that board of directors for eighteen years. A recipient of one of the first of the Episcopal Diocese of Newark Commission on Aging Lifetime Achievement Awards, in recognition of the many contributions to church and community in 1999, he is a communicant and former vestry member of Calvary Episcopal Church, Summit. As a long-term preservationist, he has been actively responsible for restoring the buildings, gardens and grounds at Olde Stone Cottage, at the site of the historic Cutter Farm, Fords, New Jersey.

HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS — 2010

Through February 5—The Museum of the **Gloucester County Historical Society** presents, “*Over There: Posters and More from World War I*”—This exhibit showcases a magnificent collection of original World War I posters from the society’s private collection. Among the artists represented are Howard Chandler Christy and James Montgomery Flagg. Included in the exhibit are relics of WWI, including uniforms, equipment, photographs, documentation, newspapers, Camp Dix newsletters, and personal mementos. Mon, Wed., Fri., 1-4 p.m., and the last Sunday of the month, 2-5 p.m. Adults, \$5; children 6-18 years, \$1; members and children under 6, free. 58 N. Broad St., Woodbury 08096.

Through July 25—*Road to Revolution: Paramus Valley in the 18th Century* exhibit at the **Schoolhouse Museum**. The **Ridgewood Historical Society** exhibit explores a century of peace, war, and independence through rare artifacts from the Lenape Indians, early Dutch settlers, George Washington, and the Continental Army. Featured is a letter penned by George Washington in September 1781, just one month before the British surrendered at Yorktown. The exhibit also details the importance of the Old Paramus Church. The Schoolhouse Museum, 650 East Glen Avenue, Ridgewood 07450, is open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-3 pm, and Sundays from 2-4 pm. Donation: \$5, adults; \$3, children. Group tours can be scheduled by calling 201-447-3242 or emailing rigdewoodhistoricalsociety@verizon.net.

Saturday, January 16—**The Camden 28**—A film and discussion about 28 individuals who placed themselves at risk of arrest and imprisonment while protesting the Vietnam War; 1:00 pm. **NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation**, P.O. Box 648, 1 Memorial Lane, Holmdel. NJ 07733; 732-335-0033 x104; www.njvvmf.org; khenry@njvvmf.org.

Saturday, January 16—Yes, Virginia, there really are Southern belles living in New Jersey. Please join us to separate fact from fiction. Dressed in period attire, our guests from New Jersey’s Isaac W. K. Handy Chapter 2658 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will talk about the real reasons why the South fought and how Southern women really lived during the Civil War. 2 p.m. Van Liew-Suydam House, 280 S. Middlebush Rd., Somerset 08873. \$10. Reservations: 732-560-1977. Ladies and gentlemen who wish to wear period attire are most welcome to do so! Visit www.themeadowsfoundation.org.

Jan. 16-April 18—“**Black, Blue & True: To the Tune of Inspiration**” exhibit: This Carriage House Gallery exhibit features photos of Cape May County African-American jazz & blues musicians and the nationally renowned artists who inspired them. Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St., Cape May 08204. Gallery open Sat and Sun, beginning on Jan. 16 plus Mon, Jan. 18 from 11-1. Admission: adults, \$2; children 3-12, \$1, or free with any tour of the Physick Estate. Free exhibit opening on Monday, Jan. 18 at 4 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Center for Community Arts and the **Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC)**. For more information, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Sunday, January 17—**25th Annual Meeting and Book Program**: Author Catherine Gourley will discuss her new book, *Gibson Girls and Suffragists*, the first volume in a five-book series, *Images of Women in the Twentieth Century*. Books will be available for sale and signing. 2- 4 p.m., Mt. Laurel Library, 100 Walt Whitman Ave., Mt. Laurel 08054. Free. (Register by Wednesday, Jan. 13.) For more information, contact the Institute at 856-231-1885 or info@alicepaul.org or visit its website, www.alicepaul.org.

Sunday January 17 – Annual Meeting, Tewksbury Historical Society, Election of Officers and Program: Hunterdon County Historian Stephanie B. Stevens will speak about her most recent book *Beneath These Waters*, which is on the history of Round Valley Reservoir, located in Clinton Township. She has written a fascinating history of what life was like in the valley, what was there in terms of farms, some of the people there and then when the state came in to buy the land and flood it. Refreshments will be served. Free and Open to the Public. Society Headquarters, 60 Water Street Mountainville; 908-832-6734. 1:00 pm. No snow date. Society Headquarters, 60 Water Street Mountainville; 908-832-6734. 1:00 pm..

Sunday, January 31—**Two-Canal Walk**. Put on your warm hat and mittens and join the D&R Canal Watch and the Friends of the Delaware Canal for a guided history and nature tour along both the D&R feeder and the Delaware Canal. **Meet by the caboose** behind the Lambertville Station restaurant at 2 pm. This popular event is part of the five-day Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival. (Visit www.winterfestival.net for more details.) On this two-mile walk, visit the D&R Feeder Canal lift lock and outlet lock. Then walk across the Delaware River to New Hope where Susan Taylor will then guide us along the Delaware Canal towpath to Lock 11 and the Locktender’s House, where hot chocolate and marshmallows will be waiting. For more information, call 215-862-2021, visit www.fodc.org, or call Bob Barth at 201-401-3121.

Feb. 13 and 14—**Crafts and Antiques in Winter**. The region's most sought-after antique dealers and craftspeople come together for a two-day show featuring an array of handmade items, country antiques, glassware, silver, furniture and more. Cape May Elementary School, 921 Lafayette St., Cape May 08204, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission: \$1 for adults and free for children 12 and under. Sponsored by the **Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC)**. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Sunday, February 14—Trolley Brunch: Mansions by the Sea Trolley Tour followed by a gourmet brunch at the famous Mad Batter Restaurant on Jackson Street, Cape May 08204. 10:45 a.m. \$22 for adults; \$17.50 for children (ages 3-12). Sponsored by the **Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (MAC)**. For more information or to make reservations, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Wednesday, February 17—Lincoln: Man of Sorrow. This presentation gives special insights into our country's great emancipator. While Lincoln the president struggles with the wrenching experiences of a country divided, Lincoln the family man deals with an irrational wife and the deaths of dearly loved sons. An NJCH Program. Boonton Senior Center, North Main Street, Boonton 07005. 2:00 pm. **Boonton Historical Society**; 973-316-0976; www.boonton.org/Community/HistoricalSociety.htm; boontonhistory@yahoo.com.

Saturday, February 20—"Fisk Jubilee Singers"—Famous musicologists Pam and Charlie Horner lead a celebration of Black History Month with a multimedia presentation on how, in 1871, a small group of former slaves left Nashville's Fisk University on a series of singing tours, raising thousands of dollars for their school while performing before presidents and royalty, as well as the common person. \$10 admission. 2-4 p.m. Van Liew-Suydam House, 280 S. Middlebush Road, Somerset 08873. Reservations: 732-560-1977. Directions at www.themeadowsfoundation.org.

Saturday, February 27—A Glimpse at Fort Monmouth's Support to Vietnam, a slide show and discussion by Melissa Ziobro, 1:00 pm. **NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation**, P.O. Box 648, 1 Memorial Lane, Holmdel. NJ 07733; 732-335-0033 x104; www.njvvmf.org; khenry@njvvmf.org.

Saturday, February 27—"Colonial Cooking"—Food historian and open-hearth cook Michele Dansak will demonstrate and discuss 18th-century foodways while preparing an authentic dish from the period. Audience participation is encouraged. \$10. 2 p.m. Wyckoff-Garretson House, 215 S. Middlebush Rd., Somerset 08873. Reservations to 732-560-1977. Directions at www.themeadowsfoundation.org.

Saturday, February 27—Light Rail trip through the Hamilton/Trenton Marsh to Roebling. Join us for a whirlwind guided tour by light rail into the 19th century between Roebling and Trenton! We will meet in the parking lot of the Bordentown Light Rail station (100 W. Park Avenue at Prince Street, above the boat landing) at 9:00 am sharp, purchase tickets, and hear a brief introduction before boarding the 9:25 train for a 5-minute ride south to Roebling to see sunken canalboats from the era when coal-laden boats crossed the river from Bristol to the D&R Canal. Then we will board an 9:37 northbound train for the 15-minute ride to Trenton and return to Bordentown on the 10:14 train, arriving at 10:25. The tracks follow the path of the D&R Canal between Crosswicks Creek and Trenton. **Two-hour, either-direction tickets are \$1.35 (.65 for seniors). Please bring exact change. Parking and the tour are FREE.** Exact times are subject to railroad schedules, so please verify nearer the time of the tour. **Space is limited and registration is strongly advised; call 609 924-2683 after February 15th.** The trip is sponsored by the D&R Canal Watch, and co-sponsored by the Washington Crossing Audubon Society, Friends for the Marsh, and the D&R Greenway Land Trust.

March through August—Special Exhibit, *Growing Up in the 1960s-70s: A Flash Back in Time*. On-going exhibit of a collection of 50-75 toys from the 1960s-1970s. Hands-on objects for touch, informative descriptions, and photographs will also be included. **NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation**, P.O. Box 648, 1 Memorial Lane, Holmdel. NJ 07733; 732-335-0033 x104; www.njvvmf.org; khenry@njvvmf.org.

Wednesday, March 17—The Boonton Police Department: 1867–1999. Ex-police Chief Steven Stross presents the history of the Boonton Police Department with pictures and artifacts while stressing "the human side of police work" by discussing certain events that took place within the department before and during his thirty-three years with the department. Boonton Senior Center, North Main Street, Boonton 07005. 7:00 pm. **Boonton Historical Society**; 973-316-0976; www.boonton.org/Community/HistoricalSociety.htm; boontonhistory@yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 21 – Tewksbury Historical Society, Meeting and Program, Society Headquarters 60 Water Street, Mountainville; 908-832-6734. 1:00 pm.

Sunday, March 21— Bike ride along the D&R Canal from Griggstown to Route 1 and back—25-mile round trip. Meet at the Griggstown Causeway at 10:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Helmets required. Questions? Call Bob Barth at 201-401-3121. Sponsored by the **D&R Canal Watch**.

Wednesday, March 24—History of the Madison Fire Department. Madison Historical Society, Chase Room, Madison Public Library, 39 Keep Street 07940. 7:00 pm. 973-377-0722 Ext. 8 or 973-377-2292.

Saturday, April 10—NJ Postcard, Book & Paper Show. Youth Temple, Ocean Grove 07756. 9:00-4:00pm
Historical Society of Ocean Grove, P.O. Box 446, Ocean Grove 07756. info@oceangrovehistory.org; 732-774-1869.

Saturday, April 17—Four Views of Trenton. Choose one of these bus tours: Trenton neighborhoods; 1784 Trenton, the nation's capital; the Evanovich "Stephanie Plum" tour; or half-day on the bus tour. Sponsored by The Contemporary and the **Trenton Historical Society**. **The Contemporary of Greater Trenton**, 176 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608; 609-771-9022; janethartman99@yahoo.com.

Wednesday, April 21—Boonton Architecture. Local architect Lawrence Korinda talks about the evolution and development of architectural styles in Boonton. Boonton Senior Center, North Main Street, Boonton 07005. 7:00 pm. **Boonton Historical Society**; 973-316-0976; www.boonton.org/Community/HistoricalSociety.htm; boontonhistory@yahoo.com.

Saturday, April 24—35th Anniversary of Operation Babylift—A screening of Tammy Nguyen Lee's award-winning film, "Operation Babylift: The Lost Children of Vietnam." Discussion with cast and crew, reception, art and artifacts display. 11:00 am. **NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation**, P.O. Box 648, 1 Memorial Lane, Holmdel. NJ 07733; 732-335-0033 x104; www.njvvmf.org; khenry@njvvmf.org.

Wednesday, April 28—Dr. Barbara Oberg, General Editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton University will speak on "**Thomas Jefferson.**" **Madison Historical Society**, Chase Room, Madison Public Library, 39 Keep Street 07940; 973-377-0722 Ext. 8 or 973-377-2292.

April 30-November 7—Glowing: Cape May's Stained Glass exhibit: Presented by Cape May's own stained glass expert and guest curator, Dottie Rogers, this Carriage House Gallery exhibit features color photographs of richly colored 19th-century windows in Cape May, tools of the stained-glass trade, samples of the intensely colored glass, and the uplifting story of the restoration of church windows in Cape May. Large, glowing reproductions of stained glass, real historic stained glass windows, and jewel-like samples are sure to delight. The Carriage House Gallery is on the grounds of the Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St., Cape May 08204. Open daily; hours vary. Free opening reception on Friday, April 30 at 7 p.m. Admission is \$2 or free with any Physick Estate tour. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts (MAC). For more information or to make reservations, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Friday, May 7—New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Day Ceremony. Celebrating the 15th anniversary of the dedication of the NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial. As part of the ceremony, the NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs will award a number of New Jersey state medals. 11:00 am. **NJ Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation**, P.O. Box 648, 1 Memorial Lane, Holmdel. NJ 07733; 732-335-0033 x104; www.njvvmf.org; khenry@njvvmf.org.

Saturday, May 15—Murder Mystery Tea. Presenting "Murder at the Earl of Grey's Hound Manor." The guests have gathered at Hound Manor for the reading of the will of the late Earl of Grey, but the reading has been delayed because of the torrential rain. The roads are flooded and the barrister has not yet arrived. The earl's untimely death is shrouded in mystery. All the guests are under suspicion of murder! Boonton Senior Center, North Main Street, Boonton 07005. 2:00 pm. **Boonton Historical Society**; 973-316-0976; www.boonton.org/Community/HistoricalSociety.htm; boontonhistory@yahoo.com.

Saturday, May 15—"Montrose in May" Historic House Tour. **Montrose Park Historic District Association**, South Orange 07079. Participating homes, representing classic turn-of-the-19th and early-20th century architectural styles including Victorian, Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Tudor and Shingle Style, will be open to the public from 11:00-4:00 with several tour homes featuring musical entertainment. Tickets will go on sale in early May for \$30 at various retail outlets in South Orange and Maplewood, or online at www.MontroseParkSONJ.org. Tickets purchased on the day of the tour will be \$35. All visitors must register at the historic Mountain Station, at the intersection of Montrose and Vose avenues, to pick up the ticket, tour brochure and map. NJ Transit offers hourly train service along the Morris & Essex Line from Hoboken terminal via Mountain Station or from NY Penn Station via South Orange main train station.

Sunday, May 16—Tewksbury Historical Society, Meeting and Program, Society Headquarters, 60 Water Street, Mountainville; 908-832-6734. 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, May 19—18th-century clock-making in New Jersey. The clock in America is viewed as an art form as purely individualistic as any sculpture, painting or architectural design. Handcrafted clock-making in 18th-century NJ rivals America's best when it comes to the beauty and sophistication of its grandfather clocks. The centers of production were located in Elizabethtown in the north and Burlington in the south. This slide presentation will focus on clocks held in private collections. An NJCH Program. Boonton Senior Center, North Main Street, Boonton 07005. 7:00 pm. **Boonton Historical Society**; 973-316-0976; www.boonton.org/Community/HistoricalSociety.htm; boontonhistory@yahoo.com.

DRAKE HOUSE IN PLAINFIELD REOPENS

The historic Drake House, crown jewel of Plainfield's many historic homes, reopened in October after year-long renovations.

Eloise Tinley, president of the Plainfield Historical Society, explained that the 263-year-old home has had upgrades to its heating and electrical systems. Exterior shutters and storm windows also were installed, along with dehumidification and air conditioning systems. "That was a key component, because the house is not always so user-friendly in July and August," said Tinley, who added that renovations on a structure this old generally tend to be "full of surprises. We worked hard and we're really pleased," she said.

"Now we don't have to have humidifiers in every room (during summer months)," she added, saying the devices were important to the preservation of artifacts stored in the house. The renovations were made possible thanks to a combination of state, county and private funds, but the work isn't quite done yet. The society is asking for private donations to help fund the installation of a handicap ramp and the restoration of the house's front porch to its original state.

The society was founded in 1921 to preserve the Drake House as a local landmark and to this day maintains it in cooperation with the city. The house was constructed in 1746 by Isaac Drake as a home for his son, Nathaniel. George Washington visited during the Revolutionary War. The home was expanded dramatically in 1864 by New York City banker John Harberger. Each of the house's rooms will contain before and after photos to illustrate the scope of the renovations.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS....

We have received at least 10 responses to our insurance question from all different situations. The members could not be nicer, and they are very informative. I want to thank you again for your help.

Sincerely,

Ken Frantz

Atlantic Highlands Historical Society



Your email information makes life very easy. Most of us aren't at the museum each day. Your updates arrive often and are appreciated. I totally enjoy the League meetings. Everything is perfectly organized. The business meetings are interesting, too. My friend and I look forward to attending the meetings. Thanks for all your work.

Marilyn Anastasio

South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.

OUR MEMBERS' WONDERFUL MUSEUMS

by Linda Barth

Wow! So many of our members have outstanding museums, and I have determined to visit them. If you would like to see these unique sites, too, let me help you. I am creating a list of members' museums. If you have a museum, could you please send me its address and the times when it is open? When the list is complete, I would be happy to send it to the membership.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of visiting many wonderful historic sites in the Garden State. This summer my husband and I are continuing that tour, in an effort to see the museums of the members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey.

I continued my visits to our members' museums with a trip to Union County in early August. First stop: the Dr. Robinson Plantation in Clark. Nancy Twaskas told me that the doctor originally had over 700 acres here! She showed me through the house, with its rifle-stock (or gunstock) beams and a beautiful fireplace where the society members do open-hearth cooking. Outside, near the corn crib, is a large herb garden, lovingly tended by member Lisa Jo Jennings.

(continued on page 17)

Then I was off to the Hillside Historical Society to see the Woodruff House & Barn, the Eaton Store Museum, and the Phil Rizzuto Sports Exhibit. Alan Zimmerman and Ann Pettigrew showed me through the 1735 farmhouse that spans three centuries. In the storefront, which is connected to the house, I saw a 1910 ballot box as well as products such as Flit bug spray (made in Bayway, NJ) and Kraft cheese (made in Hillside). In addition to a privy and barn, there is a wonderful display of memorabilia about Hillside resident and Yankee great, Phil Rizzuto.

The following week my husband and I enjoyed an ice cream social at the Brick Historical Society's Havens Homestead Museum and Lizzie Herbert House. This is a very active group, with presentations and trips all year long. Curtis Havens bought the homestead, a one-room cabin with a loft, in 1827, but he greatly expanded his home in 1846 with a two-story, five-room addition. A bar in the main room is a reminder that, at one time, the structure served as a tavern/hotel.

November saw us again heading to Bergen County for three visits. At the Lyndhurst Historical Society's Little Red Schoolhouse, Sylvia Kleff explained that her society formed in 1984 to preserve the 1893 Queen Anne-style building, complete with cupola. The society raised \$86,000 for the restoration of this beautiful structure. She showed us the current exhibit of wedding gowns, and we were fascinated to read of the 1917 explosion at the Canadian Car and Foundry as well as the history of the school. This site has hosted special events, including Civil War re-enactments, strawberry festivals, craft fairs, and special visits from Eleanor Roosevelt, Abigail Adams, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson.

At Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge, Kevin Wright led a tour of the Steuben House. Originally known as the Zabriskie House, the building was presented to Major General von Steuben in 1783 by the state of New Jersey to repay the debt owed to the general for his leadership during the Revolutionary War. The "New Bridge" across the Hackensack River was crossed by the Continental Army during the retreat in November 1776. It is considered by many to be the bridge that saved a nation. Built in 1752 with five rooms, the home was enlarged ten years later by Mr. Zabriskie, who added a second floor, presumably to allow a safe haven during flooding. The complex also includes the Campbell-Christie House, a sandstone center-hall, four-room structure that was moved from New Milford to River Edge in 1977. The Paulison Homestead, relocated to River Edge in 1956 and known as "the Demarest House," is the best surviving example of a Bergen Dutch sandstone cottage that was popular between 1790 and 1820. The entire site is operated by the Bergen County Historical Society.

Heading north, we ended our tour at Park Ridge, home of the Pascack Historical Society. Founded in 1942 by local historian John Storms, the society features an astonishing collection of items from the Pascack Valley. Victorian and Colonial rooms, an early 1900s store and post office, a carpenter's shop, and a large clothing collection give the visitor a wealth of information. We were most amazed, however, by the only existing wampum machine in the world! Although the Native Americans traded among themselves with wampum before the arrival of the Europeans, making it was a slow and arduous task. In 1869, two brothers, James and David Campbell, invented and constructed the drilling machine that made the task easier and faster than it could be done by hand. Conch shells from the West Indies were imported through New York and brought up the Hudson River in small boats. Both white and dark blue shells (called black) were used. The black wampum had considerably greater value than the white.

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

March 27, 2010	Cumberland County Historical Society, Greenwich, Cumberland County
June 12, 2010	Museums of Perth Amboy, Middlesex County
October 2010	Grover Cleveland Birthplace, Caldwell, Essex County

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.**

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



With our members spread across the state, many of us are not familiar with the organizations in regions far from our own. This column will spotlight our members, so that others may learn of their mission and accomplishments.

The league has many member organizations that were specifically formed to focus on some aspect of New Jersey transportation. This is Part I of a series highlighting those societies.

The Friends of the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Center, Inc., founded in 1989, is a growing, volunteer organization of over 500 members. The group is totally dedicated to its main objective: supporting the creation, development, and operation of a Transportation Heritage Center in the Garden State. Its members provide assistance to the United Railroad Historical Society of New Jersey and the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Center Commission. New Jersey has a proud and distinguished transportation tradition. To further that tradition, the Friends of the NJTHC have preserved and are restoring thirty vintage buses and coaches, several antique trucks, and a trolley car. Over 200 truckloads of archives, artifacts, supplies and materials for the heritage center have been secured and moved to Phillipsburg. The friends believe that an operating heritage center will best preserve and showcase the irreplaceable railroad, bus, truck, canal, trolley, and ferry transportation heritage. For further information, you can reach the FNJTHC by contacting Bill McKelvey at 103 Dogwood Lane, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922; 908-464-9335; www.njthc.org; admin@njthc.org.

The Delaware & Raritan Canal Watch, a new member of the League, was established in 1988 as a non-profit volunteer citizens' advocacy group to help promote, enhance and preserve the Delaware & Raritan Canal State Park. Incorporated in 1989, the nonprofit friends group sponsors a 5K Fun Run every spring at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville. With the funds raised from this annual event, the Canal Watch has been able to purchase many items needed by the D&R Canal State Park, such as flat files for maps, a VCR, a small trailer for the maintenance staff, a saw, computer programs, picnic tables, a camera, a water-testing kit, and benches. In recent years the Watch has concentrated on interpretive signs for each lock and spillway. *A Guide to the D&R Canal State Park* will be published by the Watch in the near future in conjunction with a commercial publisher. The Canal Watch also conducts walks along the towpath, canoe rides, bike tours, and clean-up days. The group works closely with the interpretive staff at the state park. You may contact the Canal Watch at P.O. Box 2, Rocky Hill, NJ 08553; 908-722-7428; www.canalwatch.org; barths@att.net.

The Camden & Amboy Railroad Historical Group is dedicated to the preservation of the legacy of the Pennsylvania Railroad's predecessor and successor lines in New Jersey. This group is also the Camden & Amboy Chapter of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society. All meetings are held in the former Pennsylvania Railroad freight station behind the Ely House on North Main Street in Hightstown, NJ. The group seeks to balance its work with trips, project work, and meetings and to keep the standard railroad of the world historically significant. As the sole Pennsylvania Railroad-themed group based in New Jersey, the group provides excellent opportunities to explore and report the vast Garden State histories of the PRR. The Camden & Amboy right-of-way remains significant as it is the present day operation of New Jersey Transit's River Line; more recently it has been in the news concerning its possible abandonment by Conrail. The *John Bulletin* journal is published twice a year by the Camden & Amboy Railroad Historical Group. The publication is named for the John Bull locomotive, the oldest operable steam locomotive in the world. You can contact the C&A Railroad Historical Group at W-II Avon Drive East, East Windsor, NJ 08520; 609-443-4746; jktrr@msn.com; www.trainweb.org/camdenandamboyrhistoricalgroup.

**THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES SPRING MEETING HOSTED BY THE
CUMBERLAND COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, GREENWICH, CUMBERLAND COUNTY
SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010**

The spring meeting of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2010, in Greenwich, Cumberland County. The cost of the day will be \$25.00 for the following events:

- 9:15 AM Registration & coffee, juice and buns
- 10:00 AM League Business Meeting
- 11:00 AM Speaker - Dennis Rizzo, author of *Mount Holly: A Hometown Reinvented* (2007) and *Parallel Communities: The Underground Railroad in South Jersey* (2008)
- 12:00 PM Lunch
- 12:30PM Bus Tours

Village tour—Village of Greenwich (entire village on the National Historic Register) with three museums and three private homes: Orthodox Meeting House (1771); Tea Burners Monument (1908); Prehistorical Museum; private home (Clockmaker’s House); Reba and Warren Lummis Library; private home (Bull’s Eye House, 1760); Gibbon House Museum and tour including store, barn (learning center) and granary; Maritime Museum; and private home (Old Stone Tavern, 1790)

Area Tour—Surrounding areas of Springtown, a “parallel community,” Othello and Bacon’s Neck, three private homes and Bethel AME church (1835) and New Jersey’s Tall Ship, the *A. J. Meerwald*. Private home (Noah’s Arcade); Bethel AME Church (1832), Underground Railroad site with exhibits on slavery and Civil War in Cumberland County; Ambury Hill Cemetery (cemetery of Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers and members of Bethel AME congregation); private home (William Bacon House); Hancock’s Harbor and the *AJ Meerwald*, New Jersey’s Tall Ship; private home (Philip and Hannah Dennis House, 1765)

- 2:00 PM Area and Village tours repeated
- 3:30 PM Departure

Places to stay: *Wingate by Wyndham*, 2196 W. Landis Ave., Vineland, 856-690-9900, www.wingatehotels.com. In the heart of the town where Welch's grape juice was founded in 1869 and about 30 minutes from Greenwich. Rooms start at about \$110. *Country Inn by Carlson*, 1125 Village Dr., Millville, 800-596-2375, www.countryinns.com. About 20 minutes from Greenwich. Rooms start at \$89.

Questions before March 27: call the Gibbon House Museum at 856-455-4055. It is answered from 12:30 to 4, Tuesday through Saturday. There is an answering machine and we do make rapid response. On the morning of March 27, you may call Joan McAllister on her cell phone, 856-305-1627.

REGISTRATION FORM – PLEASE RETURN BY March 20, 2010

Please include check for \$25, payable to Cumberland County Historical Society, and mail to P.O. Box 16, Greenwich, New Jersey 08323. Registration deadline is March 20, 2010. Driving directions are located on page 12.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation: _____

DIRECTIONS TO THE LEAGUE MEETING AT GREENWICH, MARCH 27, 2010

From the New Jersey Turnpike

Take exit 2, Route 322 to Mullica Hill; turn right at Route 45 to Route 77. Continue through the circle onto Route 77 and follow into Bridgeton. At the corner of 45 and 77, Pearl Street and Broad Street turn right onto Route 49. Go to the fourth traffic light (Old Board Street Church) and turn left onto West Avenue, make a right at second street – Greenwich Road, Route 607. Go six miles until the road ends. You are in Greenwich. The Gibbon House Museum (Headquarters of the Society) is on the right ½ mile. The Presbyterian Church is just past the two mile marker on the right.

Route 295 south

Take Route 295 south to exit Route 42 toward Atlantic City, follow to Route 55, Deptford. Take Route 55 to exit 48 Ferrell and bear right onto Ellis Mill road. This will end at Route 77, turn left and continue through the circle. Follow Route 77 into Bridgeton. At the corner of 49 and 77, Pearl Street and Broad Street turn right onto Route 49. Go to the fourth traffic light (Old Broad Street Church) and turn left onto West Avenue, make a right at second street – Greenwich Road, Route 607. Go six miles until the road ends. You are in Greenwich. The Gibbon House Museum (Headquarters of the Society) is on the right ½ mile. The Presbyterian Church is just past the two mile marker on the right.

From the Delaware Memorial Bridge

Immediately after crossing the bridge, exit to Pennsville, Route 49 East through Salem and into Bridgeton. Coming up the hill, past the Agway on the right, at the next traffic light, Old Broad Street Church and West Avenue turn right. Make a right at second street – Greenwich Road, Route 607. Go six miles until the road ends. You are in Greenwich. The Gibbon House Museum (Headquarters of the Society) is on the right ½ mile. The Presbyterian Church is just past the two mile marker on the right.

From the Garden State Parkway

Take Garden State Parkway south to exit Route 322 and Route 40 West Black Horse Pike. Continue west on Black Horse Pike and bear left onto Route 40 and continue through Mays Landing. Bear to the left to follow Rt. 552 and continue on Millville Road until you reach an underpass for Route 55. At the light past the underpass Wade Blvd, turn left to Route 49 and make a right. Follow Route 49 west 14 miles to Bridgeton. Go to the fourth traffic light (Old Broad Street Church) and turn left onto West Avenue, make a right at second street – Greenwich Road, Route 607. Go six miles until the road ends. You are in Greenwich. The Gibbon House Museum (Headquarters of the Society) is on the right ½ mile. The Presbyterian Church is just past the two mile marker on the right.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 27, 2010—Cumberland County Historical Society, Greenwich, Cumberland County

June 12, 2010—Museums of Perth Amboy, Middlesex County

October 2010—The Grover Cleveland Birthplace, Caldwell, Essex County

March 2011—Ocean City, Cape May County



The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

P.O. Box 909

Madison, New Jersey 07940

The League News is brought to you by

