



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 48 No. 1 www.lhsnj.org January 2023

**Saturday, April 22
Winter Meeting**

**Bordentown Historical Society
Burlington County**

**Registration for and directions
on p. 19-20**

Governor Murphy and the State Legislature Must Fund and Fix Our Parks

The state parks in New Jersey have suffered from underfunding and a lack of staff to handle increasing visitor usage of the park.

The Fix Our Parks Campaign is calling for more maintenance and better funding to ensure that New Jersey residents and visitors have the quality of experience that they deserve when visiting our parks.

From the State Lands management Report <https://www.fixourparksnj.org/the-report>:

“New Jersey parks face significant challenges. Staffing has decreased by 28% since 2006, leading to reduced services including seasonally staffed or closed nature centers, swim areas closing early, and delayed storm cleanup. There are now only 15 park superintendents responsible for over 50 parks. For naturalists and historians, there are now fewer than ten full-time staff across the entire system, which leads to an undervaluing of parks by the public. The ratio of park service staff to visitors is 1 to 36,000 and there is one forest service staff member for every 5,500 acres of land.

In addition, there has been a 13% increase in acquired park acreage since 2008. The combination of reduced staffing and increased lands requiring management is severely stressing the park system. Some have said that ‘collapse’ is inevitable and these trends are demoralizing the remaining staff. It is certain that the integrity of park resources has been significantly reduced.”

The historic buildings in our parks, forests, and historic sites are in sorry need of maintenance, paint, roofs, and foundation repair. Our trails are becoming cow paths and parking

(continued on page four)



SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

April 22, 2023—Bordentown Historical Society, Bordentown, Burlington County

June 17, 2023—Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, Hunterdon County

Fall 2023 — Sparta Historical Society, Sparta, Sussex County

Spring 2024—Naval Air Station Wildwood, Rio Grande, Cape May County

June 15, 2024 - Historical Society of Woodbridge, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County

Fall 2024—American Labor Museum/Botto House, Haledon, Passaic County

Spring 2025—The Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Port Norris, Cumberland County

June 28, 2025 – Tewksbury Historical Society, Oldwick, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County

Fall 2025 — Historical Society of Chatham Township, Chatham Township, Morris County

Spring 2026 –

Summer 2026 - Proprietary House, Perth Amboy, Middlesex 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, 908-240-0488, 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 (2024)

Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and Preservation Society

First Vice President (2024)

Bruce Tell

Vice President, Northern (2026)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Vice President, Central (2026)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar-Bodine

Vice President, Southern (2026)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Secretary (2024)

Hannah Kerwin
Somerset County Library System

Treasurer (2024)

Pary Tell
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

Trustee, Northern (2026)

Michelle Munn
Mount Tabor Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2024)

Eve Morawski
Durand-Hedden House & Garden

Trustee, Central (2024)

Jeffrey McVey
Lambertville Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2026)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2026)

Trustee, Southern (2024)

Ralph Cooper
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Trustee-at-Large (2024)

Patricia Wells
Township of Chatham Historical Society

Trustee-at-Large (2026)

Donald Katz, Esq.
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2024)

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

Publications Awards Committee

Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush
Kate Malcolm
Dorothy Pietrowski

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THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

I want to thank the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey for electing me as president. I am very honored to take on this new position after serving in various roles for the organization, including trustee, Hale Award judge, and Regional VP. From 2009 to 2018, I served as President of the South River Historical & Preservation Society which provided wonderful experience concerning the challenges of a New Jersey historical society.

I have loved history since I was very young. I constantly read books and magazines dedicated to historical topics that range from ancient history to current topics. Although I have had a career in the computer field for four decades after graduating from American University with a BA degree in history and political science, history has always been the core of all my hobbies. I collect US presidential collectables, provide history lectures to historical organizations, and have written several books. As the son of an architect, I love old buildings and mourn the loss of every historic structure that succumbs to weather, neglect, or development.

One of the things I have enjoyed about my membership in the League has been expanding my knowledge of other New Jersey towns, regional history, museums, and significant buildings. For all those reading this newsletter, I encourage them to attend our three regional meetings each year. These meetings showcase various New Jersey sites and provide wonderful opportunities to learn about the over 359-year history of our state.

Filling the shoes of Tim Hart as president will be very difficult due to his great leadership, eloquent presentations, and extensive knowledge of state historical organizations and grants. I look forward to working with him in our efforts of advocacy for our members concerning state issues.

I will work with our League officers as a promoter of our member organizations, a source for training to improve their operations, an advocate to promote preservation and other critical issues, and as a vehicle for collaboration between organizations to expand and share our collective knowledge. I look forward to my term as president and will work hard to achieve our goals. I also want to get to meet as many representatives from our member organizations as possible. See you at our next membership meeting.

Brian Armstrong

DEADLINE: Submissions for the April issue of *League News* must be on the editor’s desk no later than April 1, 2023. 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.

Oppose the Monmouth County Historical Association Consideration to Sell Its Most Important Object

By Randall Gabrielan

The Monmouth County historical community was roiled in October 2022 by the revelation that trustees of the Monmouth County Historical Association, headquartered in Freehold, were contemplating the sale of their most iconic and valuable object, the Emanuel Leutze painting “Washington Rallying the Troops at Monmouth.”

The striking image is a representation of the mounted general exhorting his forces at a crucial moment in this vital battle that some consider the turning point in the Revolutionary War.

The sale plan was prompted by the Association’s recent awareness that the painting is worth far more than the organization had believed, an inference drawn from the sale of a replica of the even better-known Leutze work “Washington Crossing the Delaware.” A crisis stems from a sale not being an issue of money or value, but an action that is forbidden by museum ethics as established by the American Alliance of Museums and rules and procedures of the Association for deaccessioning objects in its collections. Alliance guidelines permit sales only for the purchase of other objects or for care of collections. Examples of legitimate sales would include duplicate items or possession of higher quality similar works.

The governing principles of the Monmouth County Historical Association require that a deaccessioning be approved by both its curator and director. Both are adamantly opposed to the sale of the painting. Thus, the issue cannot be determined by value or money as the Association’s internal structure precludes the sale. A sale would also reflect a betrayal of the trust of a public that reveres the painting and has entrusted the Association to preserve the history of Monmouth County. A second betrayal would be the intentions of the donor and his motivation to give the painting to the Association in the belief that the painting belonged in Freehold, and that the Association would be its permanent caretaker.

The possibilities of a sale have enraged statewide historical organizations, involved historians, and many others, including the present and past mayors of the Borough of Freehold. Expressions opposing a sale were swift and fervent. The League sent the trustees a letter detailing why a sale would be unethical and wrong. The New Jersey Historical Commission and New Jersey Historic Trust conveyed strong statements of opposition. The Monmouth County Historical Commission also opposes a sale.

Statements from the Association that appear to lack merit include security and insurance. The museum in Freehold has an excellent security system. Fine Arts insurance is typically not costly. Statements from the trustees have been noncommittal and even evasive, notably the claim that no decision has been made to sell. This is perceived as a thinly disguised assertion that a sale is under consideration or can be resurrected at any time. Their more feeble statements point to many inexperienced new trustees and a continuation of fact gathering. The only relevant facts are museum collection standards and their own rules that preclude a sale not sanctioned by their director and curator. Newer trustees should have had a prompt lesson in museum ethics.

Why would the trustees want to even consider disposing of their greatest object? It is strictly for the money. The Association also operates five historic houses that suffer from deferred maintenance. The present board appears not to be stellar fundraisers. Their other dysfunction appears to be operational as the museum, commemorating its 125th anniversary this year, remains inexplicably closed.

An appraiser can place a figure on an object while the market will determine value. The board must learn that integrity and ethics are priceless. Until the board denies a plan to sell the painting with a statement that is definitive, without qualification and timeless, the historical community must continue to voice their objections. You may write to the executive director and the director of collections at the addresses below:



Shannon Eadon, Executive Director
seadon@monmouthhistory.org

Bernadette Rogoff, Director of Collections
brogoff@monmouthhistory.org

The Association may also be addressed at 70
Court Street, Freehold NJ 07728.

facilities and restrooms are degraded or nonexistent. Interpretive and ranger services are at an all-time low.

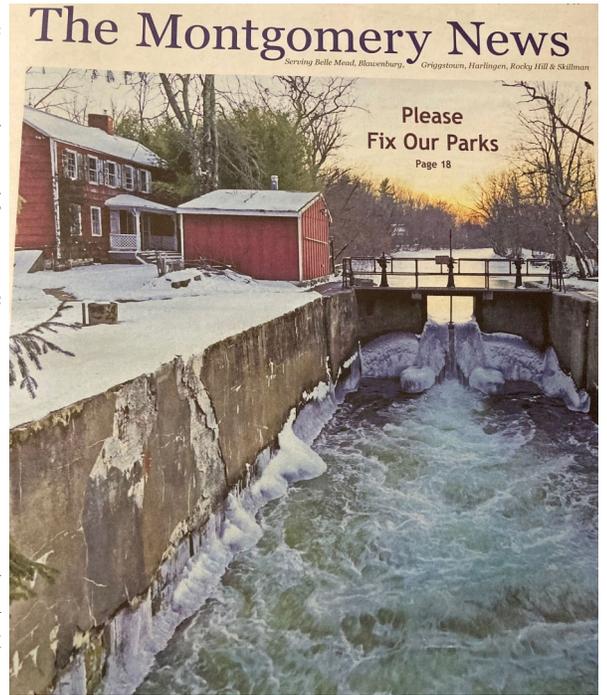
This deterioration is not to be blamed on the park employees. They are doing the best that they can with the small budgets they are given.

No. The need is for the legislature to greatly increase the funding for all of our parks, forests, and state historic sites. While \$25 million in federal funds for ten Revolutionary War sites is appreciated, much, much more is needed to bring all of our parks up to the standards they deserve, or at least on a par with neighboring states.

We very much appreciate having these federal funds, but much more is needed. It is not only our Revolutionary War sites that need funding. All of our state parks are in desperate need. There is a backlog in maintenance of over \$600,000,000. In many of our parks, the size of the staff has dwindled to half of what they were in the 1990s.

The Covid years showed what a valuable asset our parks are and how underfunded they have been for so many years. The D&R State Park, for example, has half the number of employees that it had in the 1990s, and the land that the D&R now manages has almost doubled.

D&R Canal Watch, the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, the Musconetcong Watershed Association, and the Highlands Coalition are calling on Governor Murphy and the legislature to greatly increase funding for all parks and wildlife management areas statewide in Fiscal Year 2024. Please contact your state legislators and plead for a larger parks budget.



These images show some of the deterioration in our state parks.



Aviation Museum to Reopen Following Roof Replacement

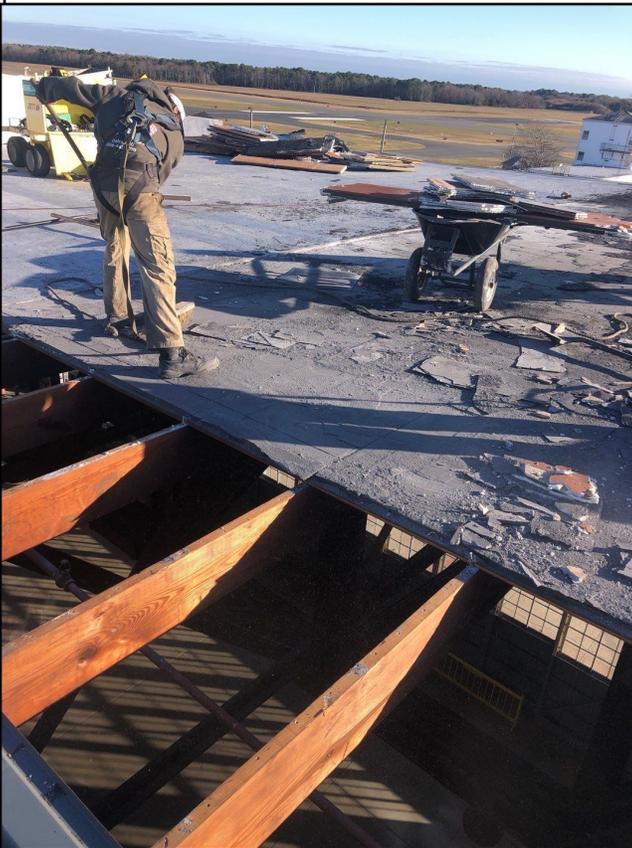
Cape May Airport, Lower Township, NJ –

Naval Air Station Wildwood (NASW) Aviation Museum reopened on January 16, 2023, after temporarily closing for a much-needed roof replacement project on the north side of Hangar #1. The project started on November 14, 2022 and took nearly two months to complete. The building is listed on the National and State of New Jersey Registers of Historic Places, and most of the roof components date to its original construction in 1942.



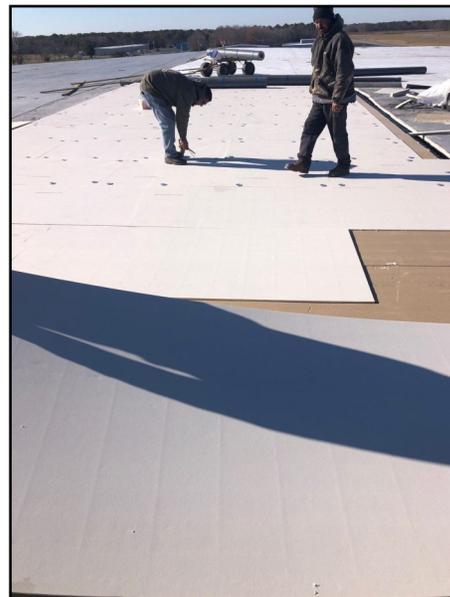
Hangar #1 was part of NAS Wildwood, which operated as a dive-bombing training base for the United States Navy during World War II. This training was extremely dangerous and led to nearly 130 crashes and the deaths of 42 naval aviators. NASW Aviation Museum's mission is to educate the public on the history of NAS Wildwood, to restore Hangar #1, and to memorialize these aviators who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Funding for the replacement of the roof on the south side of the hangar has also been secured and that project is set to commence in October 2023. The two-year full roof replacement project has been made possible in part by the Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust as well as a grant from the Cape May County Open Space, Recreation, Farmland and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Additionally, NASW will match with museum funds.



Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum is located inside historic Hangar #1 at the Cape May Airport. Current museum hours are 10am-4pm Monday through Friday. The museum will be open on the weekends starting in March. For more information about NASW, visit www.usnasw.org, the museum's social media pages, or call (609) 886-8787.

NASW will host the League in the spring of 2024.





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Delaware River Mill Society — Prallsville Mills

The Prallsville Mills is a historic site nestled along the Delaware River and the Delaware & Raritan Canal feeder in the quaint town of Stockton, NJ. The unique 10-building historic complex includes an 1877 gristmill, a 1790 linseed oil mill, an 1850 sawmill, and a 1900 grain silo. A vibrant place of community, cultural, and environmental events, the Prallsville Mills is also one of the premiere wedding venues along the Delaware River.

The original wooden gristmill at the juncture of the Wickecheoke Creek and the Delaware River was built around 1720. It prospered under a succession of owners through the 18th century and was sold to John Prall Jr. in 1794.

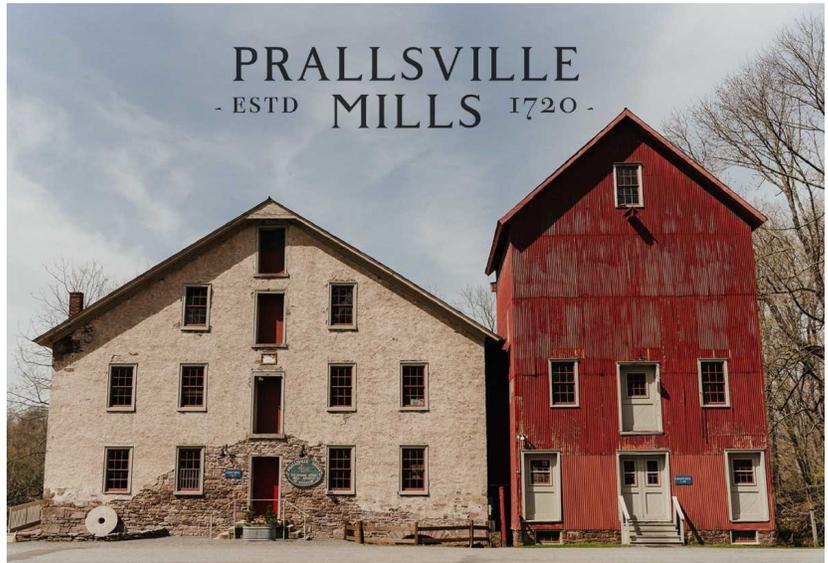
Prall launched a development program that included a sawmill, several stone houses, and a stone structure that served as an office and a store. He opened a stone quarry and operated two fisheries in the Delaware River, making the community of Prallsville a major commercial center for the rural countryside.

Throughout the 19th century, Prallsville remained an important commercial center. But by the 1950s, the property, no longer used as a mill, began to deteriorate. It was put up for sale as an attractive site for a strip mall. To preserve the site, area residents Donald and Beverley Jones purchased the site in 1969 and began to invest in its restoration.

The Prallsville Mills was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. The entire property became part of the D&R Canal State Park in 1974 and was designated part of the Delaware River National Scenic Byway in 2009.

When the State of New Jersey took ownership of the mill property, it was unable to fund its ongoing restoration. Local citizens took up the cause, forming the Delaware River Mill Society, with a mission statement that pledges to “Preserve Prallsville Mills, interpret its history and foster its use for cultural, educational, recreational and community activities.”

For more information, please visit <https://prallsvillemills.org/> or visit in person at 33 Risler Street (Route 29), Stockton 08559.



Durand-Hedden House and Garden Association

Durand-Hedden House and Garden is an historic house museum that finds interesting ways to explore the community's fascinating past—through nature, architecture, music, food, social life, local history, reenactments and participatory activities—and to spotlight the “treasures” in our own backyards. Our aim is to make history exciting and relevant for all ages.

The Durand-Hedden House is owned by the Township of Maplewood and managed by a nonprofit association of citizen trustees. Its purpose is to preserve, restore, and interpret



the historic Durand-Hedden House, whose earliest sections date to the 1770s, as well as the surrounding Grasmere Park, and collections.

The trustees are dedicated to providing diverse educational exhibits and programs that foster the public's knowledge and appreciation of the heritage and development of the Maplewood area and surrounding towns from the time of its original settlement in the late 17th century to the present.

The museum's publication *Slavery in New Jersey: A Troubled History*, based on an extensive exhibit, won the League's Kevin M. Hale Publication Award.

By creating an environment in which history can come alive, the Durand-Hedden House has attracted the interest and participation of a wide variety of individuals and groups over the years. They have made donations and loans of antique furniture, textiles and other objects, have volunteered their services as educators and workers, and have contributed the funds to present compelling programs.

And most important, they have come to participate and learn. Programs have included annual Juneteenth celebrations; demonstrations on the 1810 loom; cooking at the open hearth; concerts and art exhibits by local and regional artists; visits from highly respected historical interpreters portraying George Washington, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, and Theodore Roosevelt; and musters by reenactors of Revolutionary and Civil War brigades.

For more information, please visit www.durandhedden.org or visit in person at 523 Ridgewood Rd., Maplewood, NJ 07040. The museum is open one Sunday a month from September to June.



The Bordentown Historical Society

The Bordentown Historical Society was formed to preserve, teach and inspire curiosity about Bordentown's rich history. The society's vision is to develop a first-class center for historical and cultural attractions in Bordentown.

The society oversees the Clara Barton Schoolhouse and its own museum at the Friends Meeting House at 302 Farnsworth Avenue. Currently the museum features its Joseph Bonaparte exhibit.

The Clara Barton Schoolhouse is a 1½-story brick building built in 1839. It is open by appointment only. Please call 609-298-1740 or email bordentownhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



Although repairs and improvements have been made over the years, the Schoolhouse is presently in need of major preservation and rehabilitation. It is not feasible to restore the building to the time that Clara Barton taught there, but the Schoolchildren-funded restoration of 1921 has gained significance in its own right, illustrating the interest in history that was prevalent during the Colonial Revival Period.

We are now restoring the school to its 1921 appearance. A new roof was critical, and the leaky roof was replaced this past December. The building's considerable other needs have been outlined in a Planning Report prepared by our historic architect. This report serves to guide the BHS in prioritizing and budgeting for remaining work which includes exterior stabilization, a barrier-free entrance, lighting, HVAC, technology improvements to assist in presentations and a handicapped bathroom, just to name a few. The BHS was awarded a NJ Historic Trust matching grant in September of 2021. It will address some of these critical preservation issues (phase 1 of 3 phases).

In addition to restoration of the Schoolhouse, the BHS put on a number of events in 2021 in celebration of Clara Barton's 200th birthday, including a lecture series, a children's coloring book, the planting of 6 trees at the Clara Barton Elementary School in memory of her first six students, installation of banners at the school detailing Clara's accomplishments, and a four-part lecture series on Clara Barton, just to name some of our undertakings.

The society was an active participant in the effort to save Point Breeze, the estate of Joseph Bonaparte. This majestic New Jersey landscape and Delaware River overlook—fit for a King—is permanently preserved in the City of Bordentown by D&R Greenway and its partners. This revolutionary acquisition secures forever protection of the city's last unprotected large landscape, on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the Crosswicks Creek with the Delaware River. In the 1800s, Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon's older brother and the former King of Spain and of Naples, lived on a palatial estate on the property, known as Point Breeze, for seventeen years. Point Breeze will be one of the tours offered at the League meeting in Bordentown on April 22. See p. 19.

**Baron von Steuben Plaque “Unveiling!”
at the Abraham Staats House
17 Von Steuben Lane, South Bound Brook 08880**

On January 14, 2023, the Friends of Abraham Staats House, members of the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR) and guests unveiled a commemorative plaque describing the role of American General Baron von Steuben and his connection with the Abraham Staats House during the American Revolution. Featured speakers were Somerset County Commissioner Deputy Director Melanie Marano and Charles Morgan, President New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution (NJSSAR) at this well-attended event. The brass plaque was made possible in part through a generous donation from the NJSSAR.

The Friends of Abraham Staats House, Inc. recognized our Special Guests

In attendance: Somerset County Commissioner Deputy Director Melanie Marano, Somerset County Commissioner Paul Drake, Somerset County Historic Sites Coordinator Tom D’Amico, Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission President Rory Britt, Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commissioner Marge Sullivan, Somerset County Chief Communi-



Kathy Faulks, corresponding secretary of the Friends of the Abraham Staats House, poses beside the new plaque.



Tom D’Amico, Somerset County Historic Sites Coordinator, attends the festivities.

cations Officer Brad Fay, Somerville Mayor Dennis Sullivan, South Bound Brook Councilperson Elizabeth Konkle, and members of the New Jersey Society Sons of the American Revolution:

- Charles Morgan - NJSSAR President
- Robert Meyer - SAR Vice President General - North Atlantic District*
- Richard Serfass - NJSSAR Vice President
- Ed Glidden - NJSSAR Secretary
- Bruce Ryno - NJSSAR Genealogist and his wife Ruth
- Roger Loomis - NJSSAR Jockey Hollow Ch. President
- David Nelson - NJSSAR Color Guard
- Gary Beauregard - NJSSAR Color Guard

Photos by Rikki Massand

Dignitaries gather for the unveiling of the Baron von Steuben plaque.





The PROBLEM: How connect the public with historic sites? Historic markers on the side of a road only convey a few words as drivers whiz past. If someone drives by repeatedly, they might

memorize the full marker. But even if they do read the sign, the historic significance of the site has been severely shortened to fit the sign.

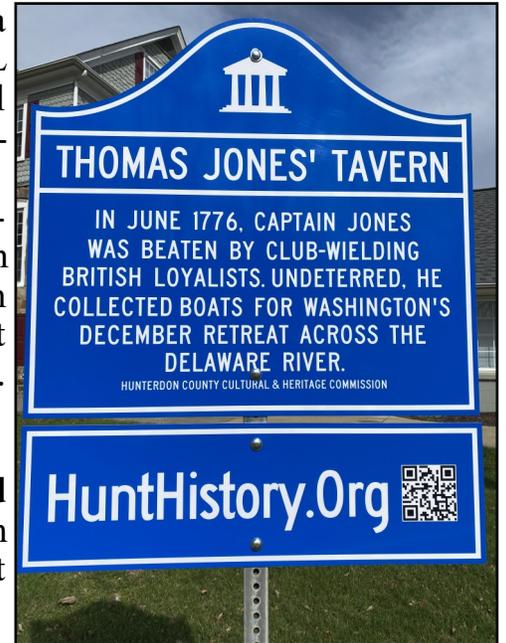
SOLUTION: Hunterdon Culture & Heritage Commission, working with the County Division of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), uses tools readily available to most people: personal computers, tablets, and smart phones, to connect locals and visitors to Hunterdon's rich historic landscape.

When you drive by or visit an historic site, you might see a **HuntHistory.Org** sign 'rider' below the marker. Enter that URL on your device or scan the QR code with your phone and it will open a **map and web page**. A small number of sites, most related to the American Revolution, have a web page and sign rider.

We plan to have all two dozen Hunterdon County revolutionary-era sites marked with a sign rider and a web page on HuntHistory.org before the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Our most pressing interest is 2026, but markers reflect a variety of historic events, times, and locations. Ten inclusive categories are listed on HuntHistory.org.

Help put your local history on the map: You're invited to write a web page for a county historic marker or (with permission) that of a township or a nonprofit or request a county marker for an unmarked site.

For more information, [see the next page](#). For guidelines, please email cultural@co.hunterdon.nj.us

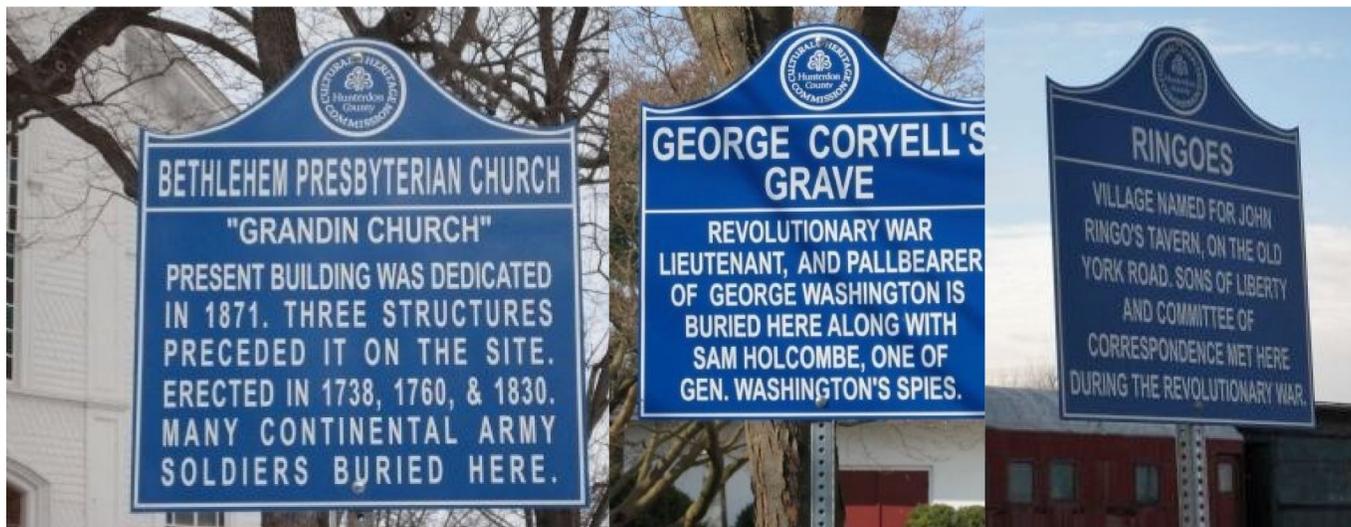


Donald Sherblom (908) 797-9900 don@clintonrealestate.com

Ed. note: The League suggests that members ask their own counties to explore such a program for your local historic markers.

See page ten for more.

Three examples of markers that need a web page & sign rider.
There are more, probably in your town in Hunterdon.



Information for potential contributors Guidelines available upon request)

1. Your narrative should expand on the historic marker, **provide context and more detailed information**. What more should people know about this historic site?
2. Authors are encouraged to **stimulate the curiosity of a wide variety of viewers**, local residents, students of history, casual day-trippers, tourists, etc.
3. **Entries can range from 600 to 1500 words** in an MS Word document, with one or more relevant pictures, with appropriate captions.
4. **Footnote sources**. You may wish to cite a primary or a reliable secondary source. If a URL, cite when accessed, if an archive, the item's location, the library, folder, etc.
5. **Content will be edited, subject to the author's final approval**, to assure accuracy and a degree of consistency to the overall HuntHistory.Org project.
6. **Authors will be credited** as for example "Written by Jane Doe."

For more info. and guidelines, please email cultural@co.hunterdon.nj.us
and/or call Don Sherblom at (908) 797-9900.

Elections and Bylaws Changes

At the November 5 meeting in Paterson, the following officers and trustees were elected. The date in parentheses indicates the year that their terms end.



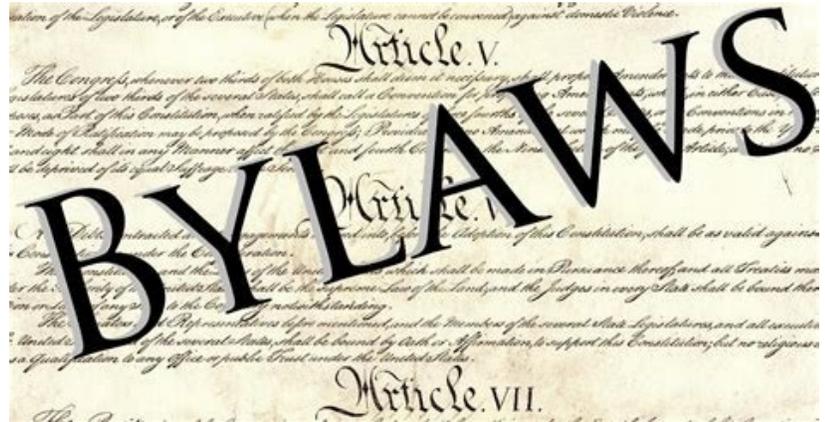
President —Brian Armstrong (2024)
First Vice President —Bruce Tell (2024)
Northern Region VP — Jane O’Neill (2024)
Central Region VP—Mary Swarbrick (2024)
Southern Region VP —Tim Hart (2024)
Treasurer —Pary Tell (2024)
Secretary —Hannah Kerwin (2024)
Historian —James Lewis (2024)
Northern Region Trustee —Michelle Munn (2024)
Central Region Trustee —Don Peck (2024)
Southern Region Trustee — open
At-Large Trustee —Don Katz (2024)

In addition, the following updates and changes to the bylaws were approved:

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS Section 1 - Regular Meetings. We will change the names of the winter and spring meetings to be spring and summer. The fall meeting name is unchanged.
A. The spring meeting shall be held in the Southern Region. B. The summer meeting shall be held in the Central Region.

ARTICLE IX - STANDING COMMITTEES
The Historic Preservation and Marden R. Nystrom Historian of the Year Committees are being eliminated. A new Advisory Committee is being added. The Standing Committees shall be:
Membership
Publication Awards
Legislative Review
Finance
Nominating
Advisory

- A. Membership - no changes
- B. Publication Awards - no changes
- C. Legislative Review - no changes
- D. Finance - no changes
- E. Nominating - no changes
- F. Advisory - will work with representatives from a history organization from each county to explore how the League can better assist local organizations.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Friends of Barclay Farmstead

Cheryl Everts
Martha Hogan-Battisti
Lee Behlman
Kamika Bennett
Gordon Bond
Nicole Cooley
B. David Emerson
Ridley Enslow
Randall Gabrielan
Denison Harrield

Alex Hinton

Hudson County Cultural & Heritage
Judith Krall-Russo
New Sweden Center
Talia Schaffer
Muriel Smith
Brien Szabo
Byron Tracey
Margaret Westfield
Phyllis Wickham

Bordentown's Clara Barton Schoolhouse

Here's an interesting tidbit about the preservation of the Clara Barton Schoolhouse:

When Clara Barton began teaching in 1852, the building was described as "dilapidated" and repairs were undertaken at that time. On the first day she taught, she began with only 6 students. After a year, there were 600 students, and by 1853, a new eight-room schoolhouse had been built in Bordentown to accommodate them. Thereafter, the original schoolhouse was unused for many years and by 1919, it was in a deteriorated state. It was purchased at a sheriff's sale for \$300 by a community-minded couple so that it could be preserved. In September of 1920, they sold it to the president of the State Board of Education for \$1 "in trust for and [o]n behalf of the Schoolchildren of the State of New Jersey and to be forever preserved as a memorial of Clara Barton, deceased."

The State Commissioner of Education then asked all of the students of the state to donate "no more than a penny" and he asked teachers to donate "no more than a nickel" in order to restore the Clara Barton Schoolhouse. New Jersey children, teachers and some other supporters raised \$3401.78 as memorialized on a plaque that can be seen on the front of the Schoolhouse. The fundraising effort culminated with a dedication of the Clara Barton Schoolhouse on June 11, 1921, with invitees including the governor and other dignitaries and relatives of Clara Barton! The Bordentown Historical Society (BHS) held a "Rededication Ceremony" on June 11, 2021, in recognition of its current preservation efforts—100 years to the day from the first Schoolhouse dedication. The significance of the Clara Barton Schoolhouse has been recognized by virtue of its inclusion in the Bordentown Historical District and by way of its listing on the New Jersey and National Registers.

BHS is now restoring the school to its 1921 appearance. A new roof was critical and the leaky roof was replaced this past December. The building's considerable other needs have been outlined in a Planning Report prepared by our Historic Architect. This report serves to guide the BHS in prioritizing and budgeting for remaining work which includes exterior stabilization, a barrier free entrance, lighting, HVAC, technology improvements to assist in presentations and a handicapped bathroom, just to name a few. The BHS was awarded a NJ Historic Trust matching grant in September of 2021. It will address some of these critical preservation issues (phase 1 of 3 phases).



Letters, we get letters...

What a great service you perform. We are all indebted to you for your work keeping the history community updated.

— Joe and Annie Salvatore

I wanted to thank you for posting our events. We've had a lot of people here who have seen the posts on the LHSNJ website, emailed newsletters and Facebook. We just had a family yesterday who saw it on the LHSNJ specifically. We appreciate that a lot.

— Gina Rosseland, Warren County Cultural & Heritage Affairs



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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Daniel offers portrait sessions at his studio in Hamilton, NJ by appointment, and is also available to travel to special events with his mobile setup to provide services to the historical community.

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By *D. Leocadi*

 THECOLLODION
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FREE WORKSHOPS



League Workshops for Members

The League is now offering workshops virtually for its members. These workshops are designed to strengthen your organization and make it a sustainable society for the future. Workshops are free to any member organization or individual.

You may request a private workshop for your organization or attend a League workshop, which are offered periodically. Any upcoming workshops will be advertised online, in emails sent by the League and in the League newsletter. **You can register for any of the League workshops by following the registration directions for that workshop or by contacting Pary Tell at parytell@gmail.com.**

The following workshops are available:

Your Mission, Vision and Long Range Plan Your mission is the heart of your organization. Is it clear and concise? Do your Board and your members know exactly what you are all about? Do you know where you are headed? This workshop will cover these basic documents that are critical for the success of any organization.

Preparing a Good Budget Do you want your members to know that you are being responsible with their donations? Do you want to attract financial supporters? Are you applying for grants? Your financial information must be in “good order.” This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget, budgeting for special events and unforeseen calamities, as well as the financial reports that you are required to file with the IRS and State.

Bad Boards, Bad Boards, Whatcha Gonna Do? The success or failure of your organization depends on having the right board and good people in leadership roles. Many of your board members will come from the ranks of volunteers. This workshop will cover how to insure you have a dedicated and effective board, including board roles and responsibilities, and how to recruit volunteers and develop them into board candidates.



THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Newsletter Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2022. Only one issue of the newsletter per organization should be submitted for consideration. Five copies of each entry are due no later than January 31, 2023. They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone messages 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. The letter should state the frequency of publication and whether or not it is available online.

NEWSLETTER CRITERIA

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 barth-linda123@aol.com or 908-240-0488, and she will mail a form to you.

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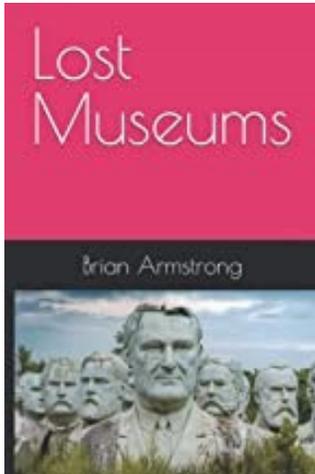


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NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

Lost Museums By Brian Armstrong



The twenty-one closed museums (lost museums) discussed in this book were in various locations in North America. These museums usually had a single theme or subject that dominated the nature of their collection. Museum subjects included classic movies, stock car racing, *HMS Bounty*, Elvis, the Lincoln assassination, Hopalong Cassidy, Forry J. Ackerman and Famous Monsters of Filmland, baseball, the JFK assassination, holography, football, Barbara Mandrell, conservation, Civil War, Liberace, B'nai B'rith, funeral practices, US presidents, and the African American experience in America. Nineteen of these museums are gone, one was rebranded with a new name, and one reopened after eight years of maintaining a virtual presence.

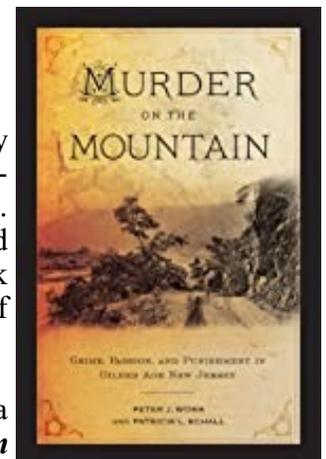
Museum locations included Chicago, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Mississippi, Nashville, New Jersey, Niagara Falls, Ohio, St. Augustine, Virginia, and Washington, DC. Although some of these museums have been discussed in websites and books, new sources of information have been used to provide an extensive and fresh overview of each museum. Extensive searches of digital newspaper archives using newspaper.com and newspaperarchives.com discovered articles written about these lost museums which usually included great promotion pieces with museum owner interviews. Other museums were featured in newspaper community interest stories. New unpublished photographs are used in the book to create a unique experience for the reader. When possible, the location of the surviving artifacts from each collection was tracked and their new museum or other location is specified. The museums discussed in this book are an eclectic group. Some are museums where potential visitors have aged out or the subject of the museum lacks relevance to current generations. Some were driven by individuals whose collections were auctioned off when they passed since the energy of the museum was gone. Others were based on professions, and the museums were used as a support to their vocation. Most show the essential participation of passionate individuals or groups to establish and maintain the museum. Some were marginalized due to the changing tastes of society where the museum is viewed as outdated, insensitive, or too shocking for current generations. A few were personal experiments with collections in residences that succeeded when people went along with the strange creation as enjoyably weird. When it comes to the non-museums in the book, these restaurants and other visited places had an important place in people's lives that patronized them and were considered special display areas during their years of operation.

When a film is lost it is called a "lost film." Although a museum is not a film, both films and museums are cultural works of art. A loss of either a film or a museum is a "lost" valuable piece of human history and culture. All the lost museums in this book were important and truly the world was a better place when they were still entertaining visitors. This book will ensure that these lost museums are never forgotten.

Murder on the Mountain Crime, Passion, and Punishment in Gilded Age New Jersey Peter J. Wosh & Patricia L. Schall

Margaret Klem and John Meierhofer were Bavarian immigrants who arrived in New Jersey in the 1850s, got married, and started a small farm in West Orange. When John returned from the Civil War, he was a changed man, neglecting his work and beating his wife. Margaret was left to manage the farm and endure the suspicion of neighbors, who gossiped about her alleged affairs. Then one day in 1879, John turned up dead with a bullet in the back of his head. Margaret and her farmhand, Dutch immigrant Frank Lammens, were accused of the crime, and both went to the gallows, making Margaret the last woman to be executed by the state of New Jersey.

Was Margaret the calculating murderess and adulteress portrayed by the press? Or was she a battered wife pushed to the edge? Or was she, as she claimed to the end, innocent? *Murder on the Mountain* considers all sides of this fascinating and mysterious true crime story. In turn, it examines why this murder trial became front-page news, as it resonated with public discussions about capital punishment, mental health, anti-immigrant sentiment, domestic violence, and women's independence. This is a gripping and



thought-provoking study of a murder that shocked the nation.

“Drawing on fascinating and impressive archival research, Wosh and Schall demonstrate how a local tragedy, involving three marginal characters, can shine a light on larger historical trends in the United States. Written in an engaging and accessible style, with a depth and breadth of research that will appeal to many readers.”

Blood & Ink: The Scandalous Jazz Age Double Murder That Hooked America on True Crime **By Joe Pompeo**

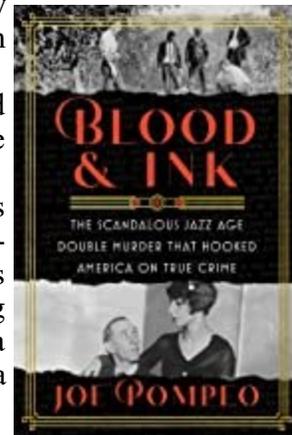
Vanity Fair’s Joe Pompeo investigates the notorious 1922 double murder of a high-society minister and his secret mistress, a Jazz Age mega-crime that propelled tabloid news in the 20th century.

On September 16, 1922, the bodies of Reverend Edward Hall and Eleanor Mills were found beneath a crabapple tree on an abandoned farm outside of New Brunswick, New Jersey. The killer had arranged the bodies in a pose conveying intimacy.

The murder of Hall, a prominent clergyman whose wife, Frances Hall, was a proud heiress with illustrious ancestors and ties to the Johnson & Johnson dynasty, would have made headlines on its own. But when authorities identified Eleanor Mills as a choir singer from his church married to the church sexton, the story shocked locals and sent the scandal ricocheting around the country, fueling the nascent tabloid industry. This provincial double murder on a lonely lover’s lane would soon become one of the most famous killings in American history—a veritable crime of the century.

The bumbling local authorities failed to secure any indictments, however, and it took a swashbuckling crusade by the editor of a circulation-hungry Hearst tabloid to revive the case and bring it to trial at last.

Blood & Ink freshly chronicles what remains one of the most electrifying but forgotten murder mysteries in U.S. history. It also traces the birth of American tabloid journalism, pandering to the masses with sordid tales of love,



Port Newark and the Origins of Container Shipping **By Angus Kress Gillespie**

Container shipping is a vital part of the global economy. Goods from all around the world, from vegetables to automobiles, are placed in large metal containers which are transported across the ocean in ships, then loaded onto tractor-trailers and railroad flatbeds. But when and where did this world-changing invention get started?

This fascinating study traces the birth of containerization to Port Newark, New Jersey in 1956 when trucker Malcom McLean thought of a brilliant new way to transport cargo. It tells the story of how Port Newark grew rapidly as McLean’s idea was backed by both New York banks and the US military, who used containerization to ship supplies to troops in Vietnam. Angus Gillespie takes us behind the scenes of today’s active container shipping operations in Port Newark, talking to the pilots who guide the ships into port, the Coast Guard personnel who help manage the massive shipping traffic, the crews who unload the containers, and even the chaplains who counsel and support the mariners. Port Newark shines a spotlight on the unsung men and women who help this complex global shipping operation run smoothly.

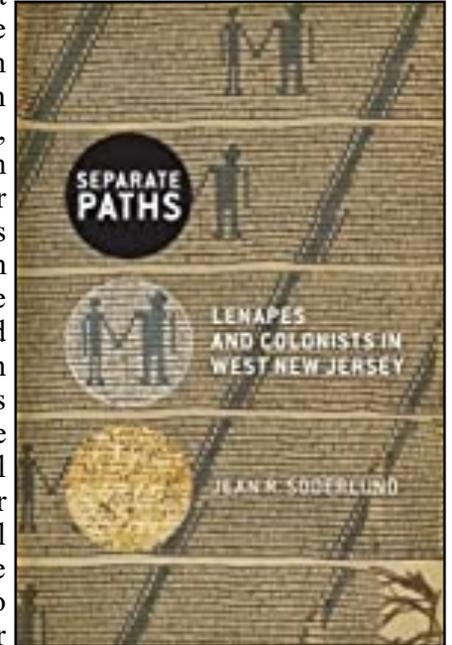
Since McLean’s innovation, Port Newark has expanded with the addition of the nearby Elizabeth Marine Terminal. This New Jersey complex now makes up the busiest seaport on the East Coast of the United States. Some have even called it “America’s Front Door.” The book tells the story of the rapid growth of worldwide containerization and how Port Newark has adapted to bigger ships with deeper channels and a raised bridge. In the end, there is speculation of the future of this port

with ever-increasing automation, artificial intelligence, and automation.

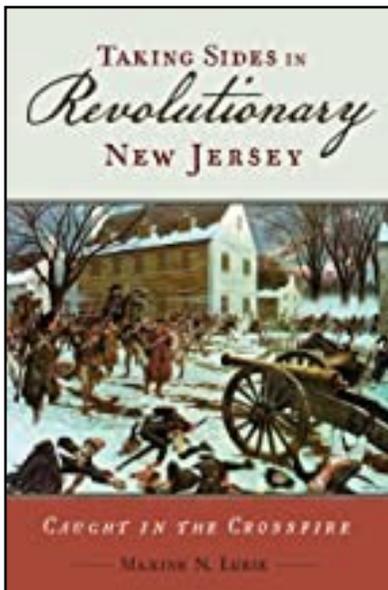


Separate Paths: Lenapes and Colonists in West New Jersey by Jean R. Soderlund

Separate Paths: Lenapes and Colonists in West New Jersey is the first cross-cultural study of European colonization in the region south of the Falls of the Delaware River (now Trenton). Lenape men and women welcomed their allies, the Swedes and Finns, to escape more rigid English regimes on the west bank of the Delaware, offering land to establish farms, share resources, and trade. In the 1670s, Quaker men and women challenged this model with strategies to acquire all Lenape territory for their own use and to sell as real estate to new immigrants. Though the Lenapes remained sovereign and “old settlers” retained their Swedish Lutheran religion and ethnic autonomy, the West Jersey proprietors had considerable success in excluding Lenapes from their land. The Friends believed God favored their endeavor with epidemics of smallpox and other European diseases that destroyed Lenape families and communities. Affluent Quakers also introduced enslavement of imported Africans and Natives—and the violence that sustained it—to a colony they had promoted with the liberal West New Jersey Concessions of 1676-77. Thus, they defied their prior experience of religious persecution and their principles of peaceful resolution of conflict, equality of everyone before God, and the golden rule to treat others as you wish to be treated. Despite mutual commitment to peace by Lenapes, old settlers, and Friends, Quaker colonization had similar results to military conquests of Natives by English in Virginia and New England, and Dutch in the Hudson Valley and northern New Jersey. Still, in alliance with old settlers, Lenape communities survived in areas outside the focus of English colonization, in the Pine Barrens, upper reaches of streams, and Atlantic shore.



Taking Sides in Revolutionary New Jersey: Caught in the Crossfire By Maxine Lurie



The American Revolution in New Jersey lasted eight long years, during which many were caught in the middle of a vicious civil war. Residents living in an active war zone took stands that varied from “Loyalist” to “Patriot” to neutral and/or “trimmer” (those who changed sides for a variety of reasons). Men and women, Blacks and whites, Native Americans, and those from a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds, with different religious affiliations all found themselves in this difficult middle ground.

When taking sides, sometimes family was important, sometimes religion, or political principles; the course of the war and location also mattered. Lurie analyzes the difficulties faced by prisoners of war, the refugees produced by the conflict, and those Loyalists who remained, left as exiles, or surprisingly later returned. Their stories are interesting, often dramatic, and include examples of those literally caught in the crossfire. They illustrate the ways in which this was an extremely difficult time and place to live. In the end more of the war was fought in New Jersey than elsewhere, resulting in the highest number of casualties, and a great deal of physical damage.

The costs were high no matter what side individuals took. *Taking Sides* uses numerous brief biographies to illustrate the American Revolution’s complexity; it quotes from documents, pamphlets, diaries, letters, and poetry, a variety of sources to provide insight into the thoughts and reactions of those living through it all. It focuses on people rather than battles and provides perspective for the difficult choices we make in our own times.

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey
Southern Meeting hosted by the
Bordentown Historical Society at Old City Hall, 11 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505
Saturday, April 22, 2023
Agenda

- 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Registration and continental breakfast
9:30 a.m.: Welcome from Brian Armstrong, LHSNJ president and Dr. Steven Lederman and Bonnie Goldman, co-presidents, Bordentown Historical Society
9:45 a.m.: League business meeting
10:00 a.m. Artifact Assessment Project, Lindsey Smith from the NJ Association of Museums
10:15 a.m.: Coffee break
10:30 a.m.: “The History of Bordentown City,” with its many accomplished residents! Dr. Michael Skelly and Bonnie Goldman, Esq.
11:15 a.m.: “Joseph Bonaparte, Napoleon’s Older Brother, King of Spain and Naples: His Life in Bordentown from 1816 to 1839,” Peter J. Tucci, Esq., Partner, Fox Rothschild LLP
12:00 noon: Lunch

1:00 p.m.: Bordentown Historic Sites Visits:
1. Friends Meeting House and our Joseph Bonaparte Exhibit: 302 Farnsworth Avenue
2. Historic Clara Barton Schoolhouse: 142 Crosswicks Street
3. Point Breeze Tour – Joseph Bonaparte’s Estate: 101 Park Street

Questions: Contact Bonnie Goldman, 609-947-8275, bordentownhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Suggested Lodging

1. Red Roof Inn, 1073, US Route 206, Bordentown, NJ
2. Holiday Inn Express, 195 US 130, Bordentown, NJ
3. Hilton Garden Inn, Hamilton, NJ
4. Home 2 Suites by Hilton, Bordentown, NJ

To register, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$30 (payable to the Bordentown Historical Society) to the Bordentown Historical Society, PO Box 182, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Please register by April 15, 2023.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

**Directions to the Bordentown meeting at Old City Hall,
11 Crosswicks Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505**



DIRECTIONS TO THE BHS MEETING AT OLD CITY HALL, 11 Crosswicks St, Bordentown

From the North-----

Via the NJ Turnpike

Turnpike South to
Exit 7, exit onto
Rt 206 North. Continue ~2mi to
Rt 545 (get in left lane), then left turn onto
Rt 545 which becomes Farnsworth Ave after crossing Rt 130
Continue on Farnsworth Ave ~1/2 mile to Crosswicks St
Right turn onto Crosswicks St
Continue ~1/2 block to Old City Hall on your left

Via 295

295 South to
Exit 57 (Bordentown/Rt 130), merge onto
Rt 130 north to 1st traffic light (get into left lane immediately on entering 130N). Left turn onto
Farnsworth Ave. Continue ~1/2 mile to
Crosswicks St.
Right turn onto
Crosswicks St ~1/2 block to Old City Hall on your left

From the South-----

Via the Turnpike

Turnpike North to Bordentown Exit
Exit 7, exit onto
Rt 206 North. Continue ~2mi to
Rt 545 (get in left lane), then left turn onto
Rt 545 which becomes Farnsworth Ave after crossing Rt 130
Continue on Farnsworth Ave ~1/2 mile to Crosswicks St
Right turn onto Crosswicks St.
Continue ~1/2 block to Old City Hall on your left

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Farnsworth Ave. Continue ~1/2 mile to
Crosswicks St.
Right turn onto
Crosswicks St ~1/2 block to Old City Hall on your left

NB: Bordentown can also be reached from the South or from Trenton via the Riverline Light Rail. If interested in this option we can provide more details.