



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 34 No. 1

www.LHSNJ.org

January 2008

**Winter Meeting
Long Beach Island
Historical Society,
Beach Haven, Ocean
County
March 8, 2008**

Article and
registration form
on page 11-12.

HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION NOW AVAILABLE

Former League president Bernard Bush has written to inform the historical community of a wonderful new publication.

The fortieth anniversary history of the New Jersey Historical Commission was written by Howard L. Green, who was for many years the commission's research director. As the commission's founding executive director, Mr. Bush wishes to express his admiration and gratitude to Mr. Green. He has produced a skillful blend of factual narrative and well-reasoned interpretation of the commission's complex and often embattled history.

This is a concise and quite detailed record of the accomplishments, as well as the problems and failures, of a state government agency during its first four decades. It provides a solid foundation for the full-scale history that must one day be undertaken.

The work appears as an article in *New Jersey Studies News*, the Newsletter of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, Volume 1, Number 1, pages 1-9. Copies are available from Richard Waldron at acrelus@optonline.net.

ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2007

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey announces the **ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM** and invites its member organizations to submit entries. Awards will be given for works published in the year 2007, in the following categories:

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

For works published in 2007, awards will be presented at the League meeting in **June 2008**. Deadline for submission of entries: **JANUARY 31, 2008**. Send entries to: **Publication Awards Committee, League of Historical Societies of NJ, New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102**.

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.

We send our best wishes to our treasurer, **Dot Andrew**, who recently injured her shoulder. Get well soon, Dot.

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

Listed below are your officers and trustees:

President (2008)

James T. Raleigh
Friends of Monmouth Battlefield

First Vice President (2008)

Robert J. Hunter
Haddon Heights Historical Society

Vice-President, Northern (2008)

Catherine Sullivan
Victorian Society

Vice-President, Central (2008)

J.B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice-President, Southern (2008)

June Sheridan
Atlantic County Historical Society

Secretary (2008)

Kevin M. Hale
Metuchen-Edison Historical Society

Treasurer (2008)

Dorothy M. Andrew
Gloucester County Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2010)

Dorothy E. Johnson
Oakeside-Bloomfield Cultural Center

Trustee, Northern (2008)

Betty Hardy
Madison Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2010)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustee, Central (2008)
William Fidurski
Clark Historical Society

Trustee, Southern (2010)

Sonia L. Forry
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

Trustee, Southern (2008)

Jean C. Lacey
Toms River Seaport Society

Trustee-at-Large (2008)

Patricia Drummond
Historical Association of Fair Haven

Trustee-at-Large (2010)

Robert R. Longcore
Sussex County Historical Society

Historian (2008)

John Chance
Montclair Historical Society

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

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth

Membership Chairman

Dorothy Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society
Ruth Kane Fern
Passaic County Historical Society

DEADLINE: Submissions for the April issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than March 15, 2008. 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.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It has been a year since I volunteered to serve as your president. I appreciate the efforts of our board members, many of whom have other very important responsibilities. I have been working with the board to define services to our collective membership within the reasonable limits of a carefully planned budget.

I believe that our last board meeting, held in Cape May, was very constructive. We had time to discuss the content of the *League News* and the League part of the three regional meetings held over the course the year.

Over the past year we have tried to devote a special section of the League business meeting to items of statewide interest. This was one of the active discussion areas in the Cape May meeting, and several board members volunteered to review our efforts and make suggestions for future meetings.

Some members feel that the officers and delegates attend the regional meetings to learn about the host organization and its area. You will find an outstanding report of what happened at our Bayonne meeting in this issue. I think the program that the Bayonne Historical Society provided is an excellent example of the information that the League as a whole and its board could or should provide our members beyond the *League News* and our three regional meetings. To that extent we have regional and at-large members on the Board.

I would like to hear more from the board and the membership about programs and services that could be provided in our newsletter and at our meetings. I will continue to work with the board for our member organizations, large and small, and hope we can have more League information in future newsletters.

Jim Raleigh
President

NEW JERSEY HISTORY LIST SERVE

Through our New Jersey Historical Commission, you may subscribe to the New Jersey History List Serve, also known as "H-New-Jersey."

The subject of this H-Net discussion group is everything concerned with the study of New Jersey history. H-New-Jersey is open to anyone with an interest in the subject, including, but not limited to, academic researchers, teachers, students, archivists, historic site staff, volunteers, genealogists, archeologists, historic preservationists, and just plain history buffs. Subscription is free, and you can unsubscribe at any time.

H-New Jersey is sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission as a service to the state's history community. To subscribe, go to the following website: www.h-net.org. Click on "discussion networks" at the top of the screen, scroll down to "H-New-Jersey," and click on it. The home page of the listserve will then appear. Click on "Subscribe!" on the left side of the screen, and you will be prompted on how to enter your email address into the list of subscribers.

Marc Mappen, Executive Director, New Jersey Historical Commission, 225 West State Street, PO Box 305, Trenton, NJ 08625-0305; mmappen@admin.sos.state.nj.us; 609-984-0902.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS...

The opinions expressed by our correspondents are the opinions of individuals and not necessarily those of the League.



Great newsletter! We received it today. Thank you so very much for all of the wonderful publicity!!!
— Suzanne and Ray Shea, Union Landing Historical Society — Brielle

Concerning the events calendar in the newsletter and the overabundance of responses, I thought that possibly as an alternative, or in addition to, the many organizations could email all the other societies on their own of upcoming events (we all have a membership list, and the e-mail should be included). That way we'd have notification and could inform our own membership at current meetings. Just a thought, if they want to get their info out there, this might be an additional way to do it.—Eleanor F. Ditton, Lacey Historical Society

AVIATION MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT

Naval Air Station Aviation Museum was awarded a \$7,500 grant by Bank of America. The grant will assist in the museum's continuing efforts to educate students and the public about military aviation and New Jersey history-related subjects. Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum has on display over twenty aircraft from throughout the decades since World War II. The museum also displays military memorabilia, engines, photographs, 1940s related artifacts, and exhibits that allow visitors to discover the science of flight and the aviation history of the United States of America.

Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum is open Monday through Friday from 9-4. It is located at historic Hangar No.1 at the Cape May County Airport, which served as a World War II dive-bomber training center. The museum is dedicated to the forty-two naval airmen who perished while training at this facility between 1943 and 1945.

For further information, please contact Cindy Stephens at 609-886-8787 or visit www.usnasw.org

UPDATE ON HARPOONS STOLEN FROM CAPE MAY COUNTY MUSEUM

Unfortunately, there has been no word on the missing whaling implements. The FBI had a tip through Crime Stoppers, but nothing came of it. We are now offering a reward up to \$4000 for any information leading to the recovery of the items. Pary Woehlcke, Curator

Without New Jersey's Watchung Mountains and the towns around Morristown, would the American Revolution have succeeded? Would George Washington's army have survived?

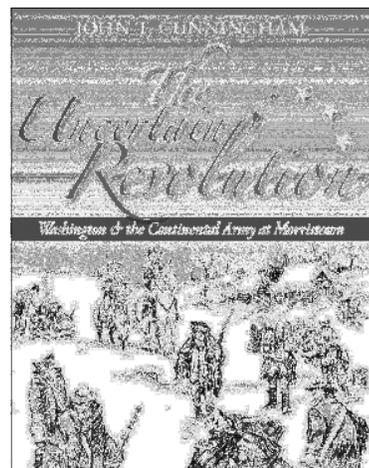
New Jersey's esteemed historian John T. Cunningham explores the harsh circumstances and geography of this region during the War of Independence. It is an account of American history that has been overlooked and overshadowed until now. But this "geological fortress" -- Washington and the Continental Army's winter quarters for four years -- may well be the place where America survived.

In *The Uncertain Revolution*, Mr. Cunningham tells the story of those forgotten winters in Middlebrook and Morristown and of their critical importance to the course of the war. Geographically, the mountains made an excellent defensive position, hiding from the British the disarray of the American army and the horrific conditions. Reports of the strength and numbers of American troops fluctuated wildly as Washington and his officers tried to stave off desertion and mutiny. Washington's army survived a small pox epidemic at Morristown, a season of short supplies at Middlebrook, the most brutal winter of the war in 1779-80, and the war's most dire mutiny on New Year's Day 1781. There's drama -- including the cat-and-mouse game played with the unpredictable British general, George Clinton, and treachery -- with one of his favorite officers, Benedict Arnold. There's also the fierce performance of the New Jersey militia in defense of their homes and farms.

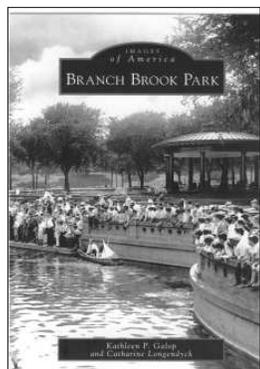
In *The Uncertain Revolution*, Mr. Cunningham makes the case for the importance of Morristown and the mountains to an understanding of the war itself. And just as the history of those harsh winters has long been neglected, so were the physical places over time. The soldiers huts in the mountains at Jockey Hollow disintegrated, and the houses that had served as Washington's headquarters were almost lost to neglect and development. The author's account of their reclamation and eventual incorporation into the America's first National Historical Park in 1933 is a fitting conclusion to his story of Washington in the Watchungs.

John T. Cunningham has long been known as "New Jersey's popular historian," a title bestowed upon him by the New Jersey Historical Commission. His prolific contributions to state history in his books, magazine articles, documentary films, and talks demonstrate that he knows, writes, and talks about his native state from experience and diligent research. *The Uncertain Revolution* is his 50th book. His first, *This is New Jersey*, published in 1953, has never gone out of print.

Well known in the state's schools, his extensive program of New Jersey studies features the noted text, *You, New Jersey and the World*. One of the founders of the New Jersey Historical Commission, he has served as its chair and was also president of the New Jersey Historical Society. Rutgers University, in bestowing an honorary degree on Mr. Cunningham, called him "Mr. Jersey." The *New York Times* said: "He helped to give New Jersey legitimacy." With years of experience as a reporter on a major New Jersey newspaper, Mr. Cunningham considers himself to be a historian who approaches his writing with a journalist's quest for truth combined with a style accessible to all readers.



Branch Brook Park, located in Newark, was America's first county park. The park was established in 1895 as the cornerstone of the Essex County Park System. The vision for Branch Brook Park came in 1867, when Newark park commissioners retained Olmsted, Vaux, and Company to identify a site for a park in the city. That vision matured into a reality that is now, 140 years later, woven into the urban experience of Newark and its neighboring towns. The significance of Branch Brook Park has been nationally recognized with its placement on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places. Home to the Newark Cherry Blossom Festival, organized long-distance runs and bicycle races, picnics, the Chrysanthemum Show, the New Jersey Symphony Under the Stars, boating on the lake, prom pictures, and sports activities from baseball to bocce to soccer and tennis, Branch Brook Park remains a constant source of great beauty.



Friends since high school, Kathleen P. Galop and Catharine Longendyck collaborated on this tribute to the park. Galop is an attorney and the author of the nomination placing the park on the

national and state historic registers. Longendyck is a dedicated Newarker and retired corporate executive.

Prize winning historian Linda Grant De Pauw has written a great deal about the Revolutionary War heroine Molly Pitcher in books for both adult and young adult audiences, but students still ask her the same questions that they asked thirty years ago. She wrote her new book, *In Search of Molly Pitcher*, as a mystery story to answer all the questions while entertaining young readers.

When Peggy McAllister learns about an eighth grade social studies award, she is determined to win it. When she chooses Molly Pitcher, the legendary heroine of the Revolutionary War Battle of Monmouth, as the subject for her research paper, she runs into difficulties. With the help of her Greatgramps, a retired private investigator, his lady friend Mrs. Spinner, historian and author of historical romances, and Ms. Guelphstein, a dedicated reference librarian, Peggy sorts through a maze of confusing and contradictory evidence as she uncovers the true story of Molly Pitcher.

Stacy F. Roth, historical interpreter, says: “*In Search of Molly Pitcher* deserves three huzzahs!” Lucie McCormick, age 12, from Mohawk Middle School in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts, says, “This book was really interesting, and it made me more interested in history. Even for people who don’t like learning, I think this would be a good book.”

In Search of Molly Pitcher (ISBN 978-1-4303-1345-8) may be examined online at www.lulu.com/content/948354. Linda Grant De Pauw is Professor Emeritus of History at the George Washington University and president of The Minerva Center, a non-profit educational foundation supporting the study of women and war. In addition to books for adult audiences including *Battle Cries and Lullabies: Women in War from Prehistory to the Present*, De Pauw is the author of two prize-winning books for young adults: *Founding Mothers* and *Seafaring Women*. To schedule readings, lectures, or book signings, contact the author at 410-437-5379 or depauw@minervacenter.com.



PUBLISHING LOCAL HISTORY

Publishing can be one of the most rewarding and daunting ways for local historians and historical societies to fulfill their mission of preserving local and regional history for future generations. Unfortunately, most large, traditional publishers are unwilling to take on these types of projects due to the financial risks associated with a limited audience. And, while there are numerous “vanity presses” that will, for a fee, print and bind most proposed projects, they don’t offer the support, particularly in terms of sales and marketing, so important in determining a book’s “success.”

The History Press is a traditional, full-service press focused exclusively on publishing local and regional history. All of our resources – editorial, design, printing, sales & marketing – are focused on making certain that books documenting and preserving a region’s history see their full market potential.

We are continually seeking proposals for projects that fall broadly into the following categories:

Brief Histories – Accessible introductions to the history of a town, region, or neighborhood comprising 30,000-35,000 words and 60-85 images.

Writings – Collections of historical vignettes – columns, articles, essays – culled from historic newspapers and organizational newsletters comprising 30,000-35,000 words and 30-40 images.

Vintage Images – Image driven books that document a community’s “lost” or otherwise changed landscape through 140-200 images and 15,000 words of captions and chapter introductions.

If you have an idea for publication or would like more information about The History Press or the publishing process in general, please contact: Jonathan Simcosky, Commissioning Editor, The History Press, 16 Front Street, Suite 202, Salem, MA 01970; 978-741-4201; jonathan.simcosky@historypress.net. www.historypress.net.

HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

Through February 15, 2008—Due to popular demand, the **Museum of Early Trades & Crafts** has extended its exhibit, *Building the Building: Elements of Style*, until February 15, 2008. *Building the Building* focuses on the beautiful home of the museum, the James Library. 9 Main Street (Route 124) at Green Village Road, Madison, NJ. Visit our website, www.metc.org; 973-377-2982.

Through July 13—*Princeton in the 1930s* exhibition features nearly 200 images and objects, including examples from the Einstein Furniture Collection of the **Historical Society of Princeton**, puppets from the Princeton Doll & Toy Museum, and photographs from the Princeton University archives. Children experience *Princeton in the 1930s* through hands-on exploration and activities. Free admission; donations accepted. For more information, call 609-921-6748 or visit www.princetonhistory.org.

January 17— In connection with Historical Society of Princeton's current exhibition (see above), Alan Brinkley will present the annual Lewis B. Cuyler Lecture on the New Deal. Alan Brinkley is the Provost and the Allan Nevins Professor of History at Columbia University in the City of New York. For more information call 609-921-6748 or visit the **Historical Society of Princeton** at www.princetonhistory.org.

January 19-April 19—**I am a Man: Sanitation Workers' Strike, Memphis Tennessee, 1968**, an exhibit by the Walter Reuther Library. **American Labor Museum**, Botto House National Landmark, 83 Norwood St., Haledon, NJ 07508; www.labormuseum.org; 973-595-7953.

February 9—**Family Fun Day**—Get ready for Valentine's Day by creating a hand-made old-fashioned Valentine for your sweetheart. Advanced registration recommended, call 973-377-2982 x12. 1-3. \$5, adults; \$3, for seniors, students and children 6 and older; free for members and children under 6. Family max: \$13. **Museum of Early Trades & Crafts**, 9 Main Street, Madison, just two blocks from the Madison train station. For information, please call 973-377-2982 x10 or visit our website at www.metc.org.

February 29—*Take a Leap Forward: Support the Legacy of Alice Paul*, a nuts-and-bolts workshop on planned giving. Paulsdale, 128 Hooton Rd., Mt. Laurel; free and open to the public. 10 am-12:30. Celebrate leap year with members of the Alice Paul Institute's Legacy Society and learn how you can support the Alice Paul Institute beyond your lifetime. To register, contact Rhonda DiMascio at 856-231-1885 or rdimascio@alicepaul.org by Friday, February 22.

March 1—"Cabin Fever Antique Show," sponsored by the **Ocean County Historical Society**. The new American Legion Building, Church Road, Toms River. 10-5; admission, \$5. Luncheon available. Call 732-341-1880 for more information.

March 1 & 12, April 5 & 16—**Open Tours of Paulsdale**, the Mt. Laurel birthplace of Quaker suffragist Alice Paul. 128 Hooton Rd., Mt. Laurel. Guided tours of the house and property focus on the life of Alice Paul, the Paul family, Quaker history, and women's history. \$5 for adults (\$1 discount for members of the Alice Paul Institute); \$4 for children.

March 1—**Preservation in Practice: A Primer for Historic Preservation Commissions**. Conducted by the NJ Historic Preservation Office, this workshop provides an in-depth examination of current topics and issues relevant to integrating preservation into community planning and zoning. **Drew University Historic Preservation Program**, Madison, NJ, 9-4. \$75. 973-408-3400; www.drew.edu/cue/preservation.aspx.

March 8—**League meeting** in Beach Haven, Long Beach Island, hosted by the **Long Beach Island Historical Society**. 9-5:30. See page eleven and twelve for details.

March 8—**Family Fun Day**—Celebrate the coming of spring with a spring-related craft. 1-3. Advanced registration recommended. Call 973-377-2982 x12. \$5, adults; \$3, for seniors, students & children 6 and older; free for members and children under 6. Family max: \$13. **Museum of Early Trades & Crafts**, 9 Main Street, Madison.

March 13—**GIS for Preservationists**. An overview of the concepts behind GIS, highlighting current trends in GIS software and hardware, and providing hands-on training with freely available tools. **Drew University Historic Preservation Program**, Madison. 9-4. \$100. 973-408-3400; www.drew.edu/cue/preservation.aspx.

March 15, 16, 22—**Easter Bunny Express 2008**. Bring the kids and ride the train on a ten-mile, 45-minute journey through Morris County. Adults, \$12; children under 12, \$8; infants on laps, free. **Whippany Railway Museum, Route 10**; www.whippanyrailwaymuseum.net; 973-887-8177.

March 19—**Teachers' Workshop**, 9:30-2:30; **American Labor Museum**, Botto House National Landmark, 83 Norwood St., Haledon, NJ 07508; www.labormuseum.org; 973-595-7953.

Week of March 24—**Drew University's Spring Historic Preservation** classes begin. "Practicing Preservation: Advocacy to Zoning" with Wayne McCabe; "A Survey of the Vernacular Architecture of NJ" with Janet Foster; and

“Historic Landscape Preservation; History Theory and Methods” with Marta McDowell. For more information, contact Drew University’s Office of Continuing Education; 973-408-3400; www.drew.edu/cue/preservation.aspx.

March 30—Annual Fashion Show. The Contemporary of Trenton, 176 West State Street, Trenton; 609-392-9727.

April 11-12—Genealogy workshops, Gloucester County Historical Society, Woodbury. Friday evening 7-8 pm: "Pursuing Your Ancestral Trail: Starting on the Right Path." Saturday morning, two programs: 9-10, "Preponderance of the Evidence, Genealogical Proof Standard, What is the Difference?"; 10:20-11:20, "Ten Research Shortcuts Used by Professional Genealogists"; question & answer period; optional workshop at end of program. Friday night-\$15 member, \$20 non-members; Saturday 2 programs-\$30 members, \$35 non-member; both days-\$40 members, \$45 non-members.

April 12—New Jersey Postcard, Book, and Paper Show. Youth Temple, Pilgrim Pathway, Ocean Grove. 10-4. **Historical Society of Ocean Grove**; 732-774-1869.

April 25—Workers' Memorial Day Observance & the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, a presentation by Professor Irwin Nack, William Paterson University; **American Labor Museum**, Botto House National Landmark, 83 Norwood Street, Haledon, NJ 07508; www.labormuseum.org; 973-595-7953.

April 26—Annual Four Views of Trenton Tour. Buses leave from the clubhouse at 176 West State Street for all-day tours of interesting aspects of Trenton. Views include historic, ethnic, and architectural facets of our capital city. For information, call 609-392-9727. **The Contemporary of Trenton**. Lucia DiPolvere, 609-586-2684.

May 1—May Day Festival, 7 PM. **May 1 through August 23—Political Repression at Queens College, New York, 1947 - 1955**, an exhibit by Lawrence Kaplan. **American Labor Museum**, Botto House National Landmark, 83 Norwood St., Haledon, NJ 07508; www.labormuseum.org; 973-595-7953.

May 8, 9, 10—Herb Plant Sale. Van Riper-Hopper House Museum, 533 Berdan Avenue, Wayne; 10-5; Wayne Historic House Museums, 973-694-7192.

May 23—Antiques Auction, featuring shore memorabilia. Youth Temple, Ocean Grove. Preview, 4-6 pm; auction at 6 pm. **Historical Society of Ocean Grove**.

June 27—Preservation Awards Walking Tour, Historical Society of Ocean Grove, 6:30 pm; HSOG Museum, 50 Pitman Avenue; 732-774-1869.

July 25-27—Christmas in July extravaganza. Daughters of the American Revolution, Chinkchewunaska Chapter, 11-4. Guests will include the Lost Art Lacers, the NJ Frontier Guard, and the 27th Regiment NJ Volunteers. Free tours of the historic museum house 3 days. Demonstrations, quilters, and crafters on the grounds and in the house. Something of interest for all ages! 1097 Rte 23 North, Wantage Township. Come enjoy a beautiful historic treasure of Sussex County. Further information, contact wmwyman@hotmail.com.

STATEWIDE WAYFINDING SIGNAGE INITIATIVE SYMPOSIUM

On Friday, December 7, representatives of many stakeholders met in Trenton to create a consensus for a first-class, tiered statewide wayfinding signage program by August 2008.

Celebrate NJ! and New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force convened the symposium to begin the planning process for a statewide Wayfinding Signage Initiative. World-renowned wayfinding designer, Lance Wyman, was the keynote speaker, kicking off a daylong work session to address key questions.

NJDOT, the NJ Heritage Tourism Task Force, NJ DEP, New Jersey History Advocates, the state Chamber of Commerce, Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, ArtPride, the Municipal Land Use Center, and the Community Foundation of New Jersey have signed on as partners in this initiative. Invitees included representatives of many statewide groups including the NJ Office of Travel & Tourism, NJ Historical Commission, the NJ State Council on the Arts, NJ Audubon, the NJ Hotel/Motel Association, the League of Municipalities, the NJ Restaurant Association, the NJ Association of Counties, NJ Business and Industry Association, the NJ Campground Association, NJ History Advocates, NJ Parks & Recreation Association, and NJ Transit.

To learn why New Jersey needs uniform signage, visit www.CelebrateNJ.org and click on “Wayfinding.”

BAYONNE HOSTS FABULOUS MEETING AND TOUR

On October 27, 2007, the Bayonne Historical Society, Inc. (BHS) hosted the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey (LHSNJ) meeting. Society members Meryl Robins and Ashley Dugan, assisted by Boy Scouts of Troop #25, met the delegates at the Peninsula at Bayonne Harbor parking site. Guests were transported by shuttle van to the Bayonne Public Library Cultural Center (1904), an Andrew Carnegie library. There more Boy Scouts escorted the delegates to the second floor art gallery. During registration, they enjoyed breakfast and display cases filled with interesting Bayonne artifacts. Michael K. Kostelnik, league delegate/society treasurer, opened the meeting with a talk on the many civic projects sponsored by the society. BHS President Lee Fahley then welcomed the delegates and introduced the mayor's press officer, Joseph Ryan, who spoke about the city's commitment to preserving Bayonne history. President Fahley then introduced LHSNJ president James Raleigh, who began the business meeting.

After the meeting, Mr. Raleigh gave a talk on Lafayette's march through New Jersey. BHS trustee Gerard Nowicki then delighted the crowd with a new PowerPoint presentation on the landmark buildings to be seen on the bus tour. Lunch followed, with the surprise of several platters of sushi and shrimp, donated by Gerard Nowicki. Former heavyweight boxer, Chuck Wepner, the "Bayonne Bleeder," spoke briefly. A piano recital by Megan Zervoulis, who performs on Broadway, followed.

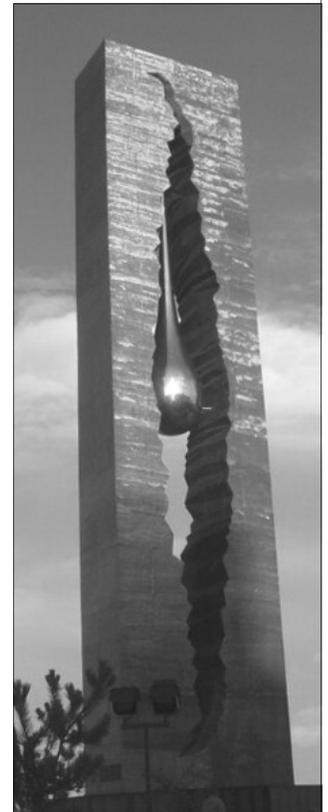
Mr. Kostelnik led the afternoon bus tour, beginning with brief stops in front of St. Henry's Church (1923), St. Mary's Church (1880), and the modern Bayonne City Hall. At Collins Park, near the Bayonne Bridge, Councilman Ted Connelly dedicated a granite and bronze monument, funded by the BHS, to recognize the 75th anniversary of this historic span. During the ceremony, the rain ended and the sun came out. After leaving the bridge, the bus paused at the Hale-Whitney mansion (1869), St. Andrews Church (1914), the Trust Company of Bayonne (1912) – the future site of the Bayonne Community Museum, Florence Flats (1885), the Bergoff Building (1912) - Hudson County's first skyscraper, Hendrickson's Restaurant (1869) - Bayonne's first city hall, and the First Federated Church (1869)-Bayonne's oldest church.

At St. Vincent de Paul Church, a bagpiper from Boy Scout Troop #25, met the delegates outside. Patricia Ege presented slides about the church's magnificent Harry Clark studio stained glass windows from Dublin, Ireland, and Peter O'Brien, a member of the parish council, led a tour. We then walked down the street for a tour of the Chief Brennan Fire Museum (1875), led by "Fireman Donald." It is Bayonne's first purpose-built firehouse and contains New Jersey's oldest hand-drawn pumper apparatus (1840).

We reboarded the bus and drove past the new Bayonne Golf Club (its clubhouse has a replica lighthouse on top) to the seven-story tall 9/11 Teardrop Monument, a gift from the people of Russia. BHS Trustee Gregory Boyle, Lee Fahley, and James Raleigh laid a wreath there. Jasmine Hammond, Redevelopment Agency head, spoke about the monument and the nearby offshore Robbins Reef Lighthouse (1883) and its most famous keeper, Katie Walker. We drove past the Carnival Cruise Line seaport, the Coast Guard station, and the sound stage building where many movies and television shows are filmed.

As the sun set over the Kill van Kull, the delegates departed for home with posters, handouts, and a new knowledge and appreciation of historic Bayonne.

Michael Kostelnik



Bayonne's Teardrop
Memorial to 9/11

DID YOU KNOW...

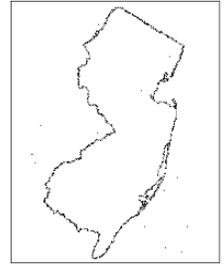
...that some of our member societies pay the registration fee for their delegates to attend the three League meetings each year? This is an idea that others may want to consider.

“CELEBRATE NEW JERSEY” PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR YOUR SOCIETY

New Jersey – The Garden State – Land of Inventions – Crossroads of the American Revolution – Small Wonder (oops, that’s Delaware’s slogan, but it fits New Jersey perfectly).

Save gas as you tour our wonderful state from the comfort of your chair. Experience the famous and not- so-famous people, places, and events of our great little state. Explore our diverse geography: mountains, highlands, rivers, lakes, and seashore. Visit the South, the North, the Central, and little-known places in between.

Join Linda Barth for a leisurely armchair journey down the byways of the best state in the nation. To reserve this program for your organization, just contact Linda Barth at 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; 908-722-7428; barths@att.net.



A portion of the honorarium will be donated to Celebrate New Jersey!, a nonprofit group whose mission is to create statewide awareness and pride in all things “New Jersey.” To learn more, just visit www.CelebrateNJ.org.

NEW JERSEY HERITAGE TOURISM TASK FORCE

The New Jersey Heritage Tourism Task Force was created by the New Jersey state legislature in 2006 to improve New Jersey's performance in the regional and national heritage tourism market. By the end of October 2008, the task force, with the help of a heritage tourism consultant, will produce a comprehensive master plan for heritage tourism in New Jersey. The plan will provide strategic direction for heritage tourism and will also include a definitive statewide inventory of historic sites with potential for inclusion in heritage tourism initiatives.

The 17-member Task Force elected Cate Litvack, Executive Director of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, as chair. The association is the managing agency for the newly authorized Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area. Two vice-chairs were also elected: Leslie Bensley, Executive Director of the Morris County Visitors Center, and John Seitter, Program Director for the South Jersey Tourism Corporation.

The task force held three public hearings this fall to learn how to improve, elevate, and promote heritage tourism efforts in order to create a comprehensive heritage tourism master plan for New Jersey. The hearings took place in Trenton, Jersey City, and Salem City, and over one hundred people spoke and submitted written testimony. Three additional public hearings will be held next spring in different sections of the state. To further encourage public input, the task force will launch a website by the end of January 2008.

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

March 2008	Long Beach Island Historical Society, Beach Haven, Ocean County
June 2008	Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, Hunterdon County
October 2008	
March 2009	
June 2009	Historical Society of Ocean Grove, Monmouth County
October 2009	

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 formed to honor or remember a specific group of people. This is Part II of a series highlighting those societies.

DANE is an acronym for **Danish Archive North East**. It was chosen to describe the records, books, letters, genealogical information, and sociological data comprising the collection of Danish heritage. The geographical identifier, northeast, emphasizes its mission to bring to the fore the stories of the many Danes who settled and contributed in one way or another to the history and growth of the northeastern United States.

The society holds an extensive collection of microfilm, CDs, magazines, lists, pictures, and books pertaining to its mission. You can contact DANE at 855 New Durham Road, Edison, New Jersey 08817; danenj@aol.com; www.rootsweb.com/~njdane/index.html.

The **Heritage and Agriculture Association (H&AA)** is working to stabilize and then restore the neglected buildings of Lusscroft Farm, an agriculturally significant gem. The goal of the association is to create and maintain an agricultural heritage center, with emphasis and opportunities for education in the dairy industry, outdoor recreation, historical interpretation, equine trails, heirloom gardening, forestry, maple sugaring, and all phases of farming from organic gardening to marketing products.

Lusscroft Farm is iconic of our vanishing rural heritage, holding a unique place in the agricultural history of the Garden State. It embraces some of our most inspiring scenic vistas, intriguing geology, and interesting topography. The farm has a promising potential for passive recreational and educational activities, allowing metropolitan daytrippers to enjoy picturesque surroundings of high interpretive value. If its attributes were sympathetically enhanced and properly marketed, Lusscroft could become a thriving destination in the growing market for agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism. Located on Neilson Road in Wantage, Sussex County, the property contains twenty-three buildings, including the Turner Mansion (aka Manorhouse), the manager's dwelling, the spectacular Outlook Lodge, the dairy barns, and farm structures. The land includes fields and pastures, ponds, woodland, and barnyards. You can contact the H&AA at P.O. Box 7191, Sussex, NJ 07461-7191; www.lusscroftfarm.com; info@lusscroftfarm.com; 973-875-2764.

The **Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum** is dedicated to the preservation of Hunterdon County's agricultural heritage from the 18th into the 20th centuries.

The museum is housed in the restored three-story bank barn that was built into the hillside to make both floors accessible from ground level. Animals were kept on the lower level, crops above. In bad weather, the farmer could feed the animals without going outdoors. Today, some of the exhibits arranged in the barn cover the tools and equipment used by the farmer to raise and harvest the crops that provided fodder for livestock and commodities to sell. Other displays cover the domestic chores of the farmer's wife in the preparation and preservation of food and the making of clothing. Early examples of now-common implements and appliances give the visitor a sense of passing time.

The museum property was once part of John Holcombe's "Plantation," according to his will of 1742. In 1968, the farmstead was donated to the Hunterdon County Historical Society by Milo and Rachel Jimison, who retained life rights. With Milo Jimison's death, over 250 years of agricultural activity on the site ended. In 1984, the property was deeded to the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead, Inc. Using a combination of grants from small foundations, individual donations, and a substantial gift from Colonel James Horn, the museum's volunteers and trustees have restored the property and added outbuildings for the post office, blacksmith shop, carriage shed, and print shop. You can contact the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum at 1605 Daniel Bray Highway Lambertville, NJ 08551; 609-397-2752; www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/c&h/huntmuseums.htm#holcombe; invfarms@rcn.com. **Visit the Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum when you attend the League meeting in June 2008.**

**THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES WINTER MEETING
 HOSTED BY THE LONG BEACH ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 BEACH HAVEN, OCEAN COUNTY
 SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2008**

- 9:00 am Registration and viewing of the Long Beach Island Museum.
- 9:30 am Welcome
- 9:45 am League Business Meeting
- 10:30 am Long Beach Island Historical Society members will present a talk about the history of their building and some of their acquisitions.
- 11:30 am Lunch at the museum
- 12:30 pm Tour: On the ride to Barnegat Light, we will view a DVD of historic homes of Long Beach Island. The DVD was written and narrated by Richard Plunkett.
 1. Barnegat Lighthouse
 2. Guided tour of the Barnegat Lighthouse Museum—viewing of the original lenses of the Barnegat Lighthouse and other area artifacts.
 3. Guided tour of the Maritime Museum – Debbie Whitcraft, founder of museum, will discuss local diving finds and conduct a guided tour of museum.
 4. Beach Haven Library – discussion on island history by Jeanette Lloyd, wife of the late John Bailey Lloyd, author of numerous books.
- 5:30 pm Bus will return to LBI Historical Association Museum

There is plenty of on-street parking and, if necessary, off street parking will be arranged.

Hotels and B & Bs within walking distance:

Julia’s of Savannah – 609-492-5004

The Gables - 609-492-3553

The Engleside Inn Hotel – 609-492-1251; pet friendly during the off season

A few blocks away is the Grand Williams Cottage – newly restored Victorian home now a bed-and-breakfast – 609-492-7272

**Questions on the morning of March 8: call Jamie Ciardelli, 609-713-6618, or the museum, 609-492-0700.
 Questions before March 8: 609-492-6820 or email Jamie at c72bryarblue@att.net.**

Registration Form—Registration is \$20 per person and includes lunch; please indicate your choice below.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation: _____

Lunch choice: Roast beef wrap _____ Turkey wrap _____ Veggie wrap _____

Please send check for \$20, payable to The Long Beach Island Historical Society, to P.O. Box 1222, Beach Haven, NJ 08008.

Registration deadline is February 21. Driving directions are located on page twelve.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE LEAGUE MEETING AT THE
LONG BEACH ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

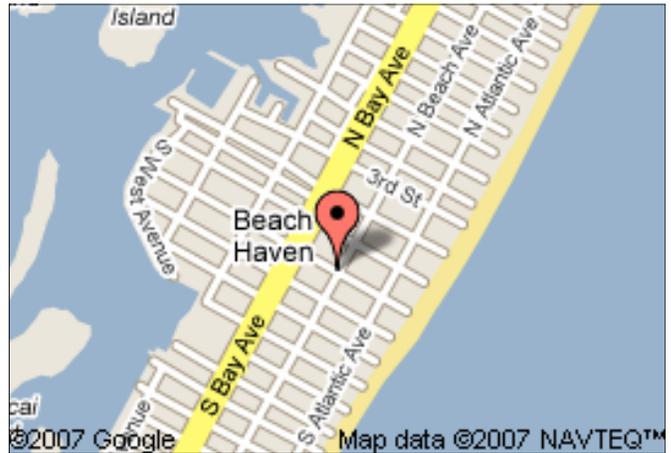
Engleside Avenue & Beach Avenue, Beach Haven, NJ 08008; 609-492-0700

Take Exit 63 off the Garden State Parkway – Rt.72 East – and follow it to Long Beach Island. After you cross the bridges to LBI, you will come to the end and turn right.

Head south on Long Beach Boulevard for approximately 7 miles. You will see the only Ferris wheel on the island at Fantasy Island on the right.

Continue on Bay Avenue (name of road changes when you enter Beach Haven) for about 6 more blocks, and you will see Murphy’s Market on the left. That is Engleside Avenue. Turn left and go one block to the stop sign. You will see the LBI Museum on the left. There is parking along both sides of the street, so park anywhere.

The museum’s phone number is 609-492-0700. Please remember this is the off season.



Long Beach Island Historical Society, Ocean County,
March 8, 2008
Holcombe-Jimison Farmstead Museum, Hunterdon
County, June 2008
October 2008 meeting - to be announced

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

