



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 48 No. 2 www.lhsnj.org

April 2023

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Summer Meeting

**Hunterdon County Historical
Society, Flemington
Hunterdon County**

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

Historic mural of Washington Crossing the Delaware is rediscovered

A priceless painting depicting Washington's troops crossing the Delaware, a work of art that languished in a dusty basement for 50 years, was recently unearthed and is being restored by the volunteer friends group of Washington Crossing State Park. When the restoration is complete, the painting will hang in pride of place in the new Visitor Center to be located at the overlook in the New Jersey park (see architect's drawing, p. 3).

Pat Millen, a founding trustee of the friends group, Washington Crossing Park Association (WCPA), discovered this long-forgotten mural while doing research for a book. She came across brief references to a mural depicting the crossing in possession of the State of New Jersey, which led her to a 1971 "American Association of Conservators and Restorers" (AACR) article on the removal of a beautiful and historically accurate mural of Washington's Crossing, painted in 1921 by George Matthews Harding for Trenton's Taylor Opera House.

George Matthews Harding (1882–1959) was an American muralist and combat artist who worked in both World Wars. Born in Philadelphia, he studied at the Philadelphia Academy of the Fine Arts. After graduation he became an

(continued on page three)

associate professor of fine arts at the University of Pennsylvania. During World War I, Harding



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

April 13, 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

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South River Historical and
Preservation Society

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Bruce Tell
Canal Society of New Jersey

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Mary Swarbrick
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Township of Chatham Historical
Society

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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

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Jennifer Coultas
Boonton Historical Society

Publications Awards Committee Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustees Emeriti

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I recently provided a presentation on Women's Suffrage and the 19th Amendment for the Longport Public Library. Before going to the speech, I learned that the Longport Historical Society had decided to disband due to the problems the organization was experiencing with the aging of active members (5 volunteers, average age 82) and the changing demographics of the town where only 500 residents are year-round and 80% of the houses are owned by summer residents. The Longport Historical Museum is now under the umbrella of the Longport Public Library Association.

I had not been to the town and knew very little about it. Ricky Gerhardt, the library director, gave me a tour of the museum, which was located next door to the library, and he provided an overview of the town's history. The museum is a wonderful display of the history of the town with many pictures and artifacts in a small building which had once been the court and police station.

Ricky told me that the historical society had once been run by some prominent people whose families had lived in the town for several generations. They had been active in the community and able to fundraise to maintain their building, however over time the younger generations found it hard to afford living there and become more involved with their family activities such as sports.

Ricky said that New Jersey libraries have moved into the two growth areas of history and online services over the last decade to increase community support. I was reminded that an alliance with community libraries may provide valuable support for other historic societies in New Jersey that are struggling in the wake of Covid, reduced number of volunteers, aging of membership, climate change weather occurrences, financial downturns, and other challenges. I hope this connection with the local library will provide the resources necessary to continue telling the story of Longport, NJ.

Brian Armstrong

DEADLINE: Submissions for the August/September issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than July 15, 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.

was chosen as one of eight combat artists attached to American Expeditionary Forces in France. During World War II, at the age of 60, Harding accepted a commission with the U.S. Marine Corps as a combat artist in the Pacific.

Between and after the wars, Harding was a much sought-after muralist, whose Works Progress Administration (WPA) pieces now grace federal and private buildings all over the nation. Several of them survive in Philadelphia's stunning Beaux Arts "Family Court" building in Logan Square, which is being renovated into a luxury hotel.

Millen also unearthed a black and white image of the painting from the book, *History of the George Washington Bicentennial Celebration*, published in 1932. It gives an excellent sense of the piece's striking composition, and assured her that this is indeed an important work.

The Taylor Opera House was Trenton's first theater, opened in 1867. It was founded by John Taylor, creator of pork roll and responsible for what may be the greatest breakfast sandwich of all time, the pork roll, egg and cheese. Taylor's advertising claimed that the founder's grandfather, who originated the recipe for minced ham, was a colonel in the Revolutionary War fighting under George Washington.

The Taylor Opera House presented major performers of the day, including Mark Twain and Ethel Barrymore. In 1921, the Opera House was converted into a movie and vaudeville palace known as Keith's Capitol Theatre, then as the RKO International. Sadly, this beautiful theater was razed in 1969 to create a parking lot.

A *New York Times* article entitled "Association Working to Restore Art Treasure" appeared in 1972, detailing the AACR's painstaking process of preparing the mural for storage as volunteers raced to remove it ahead of the wrecking ball. The mural was coated with homemade wheat paste and Japanese rice paper and rolled onto a custom-made cylinder in the hopes that it would be restored for the Washington Crossing State Park's new Visitors Center, slated for completion by 1976 for the nation's Bicentennial.

The cylinder was transported to Ringwood Manor State Park in North Jersey, where it was placed into storage in a basement. However, the new Visitors Center was too small for this large piece, whose dimensions are approximately 15.5' by 10', and the mural was essentially forgotten for the next fifty years.



Architect's drawing of the new visitor center at Washington Crossing State Park

Pat Millen discussed her findings with Washington Crossing State Park historians, who were able to confirm that the painting was still at Ringwood. Millen then approached the Washington Crossing Park Association (WCPA), which took on the mission of determining if the mural could be restored for the next iteration of the park's Visitor Center, recently approved to be built in time for the Semiquincentennial in 2026.

The WCPA found that one of the region's most respected art restorers—Christyl Cusworth of Cusworth Conservation—is based just up the Delaware in Lambertville, NJ. With approval of the NJ Department of Environmental Protection, the WCPA has engaged Cusworth to arrange for transportation from Ringwood Manor to a secure art storage facility. The WCPA is now nearing completion of its \$60,000 fundraising campaign to restore and frame the piece, thanks to large donations from Americana Corner, NJM Insurance, and

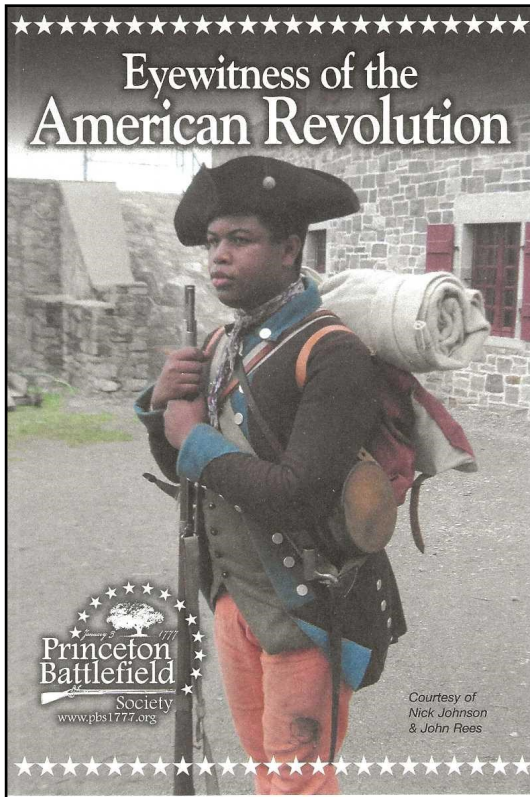
private funders, as well as many smaller contributions from members and friends. Anyone interested in helping to complete this effort can find more information at <http://www.wcpa-nj.com/harding>.

Please visit <http://www.wcpa-nj.com/harding-press-release> for more information and high-resolution photos.

Contact Information: WCPA, Executive Director Annette Earling, info@washingtoncrossingparkassociation.com.

Eyewitnesses of the American Revolution video

The Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS) is pleased to announce the release of its 2nd “Eyewitnesses of the American Revolution” video, funded with a grant from Americana Corner. Its first video was released early in 2022 and was funded by a New Jersey Historical Commission grant. It is available for viewing on the Princeton Battlefield Society website, www.pbs1777.org or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/368zkCHX8gU>.



This second video offers live presentation of six participants at the Battle of Princeton, based on the “Eyewitness of the American Revolution” cards, currently 28, which are available upon request.

PBS encourages you to view this video at:

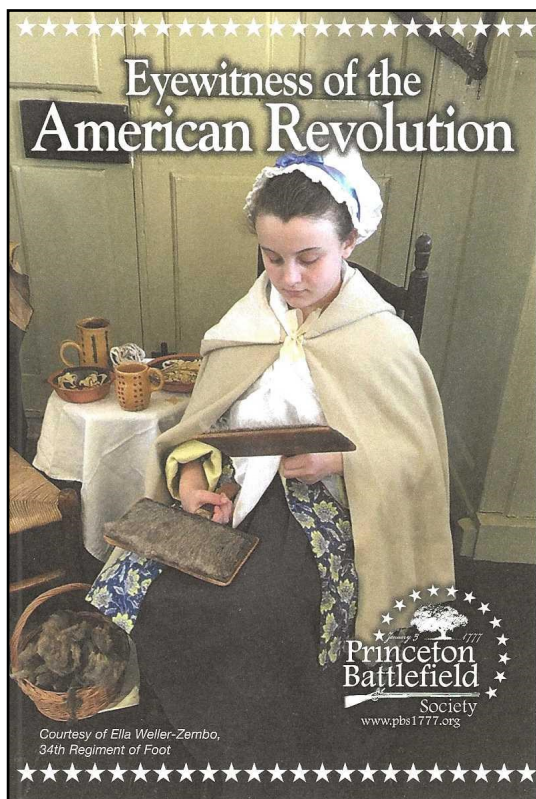
https://www.dropbox.com/s/nj1x2nyhfzthuf/PBS_VIDEO2.mp4?dl=0

The Princeton Battlefield Society has now videotaped a total of 12 “eyewitnesses,” all from the cards in its “Eyewitness of the American Revolution”

initiative, in these two separate videos. The PBS’s eyewitness cards are first-person narratives relating the experiences of

individuals—military and civilian, British and American, men and women, and the enslaved—during the Ten Crucial Days of 1776-77 and the Battle of Princeton. They are intended to expand our understanding, awareness, and appreciation of the American Revolution, especially of the lives of real people. All 28 cards were written by Larry Kidder.

PBS also welcomes your comments.



Dec 31 - Private Jacob Gulick (ne Francis) 16th Continental Regiment

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December 31 was to be my last day in the army. As a free Black man who had joined the Continental Army ten months after the indenture my mother had bound me out in ended on my 21st birthday, I was ready to be free once again. I had served for fourteen months, managing to avoid being seriously wounded in combat or taken sick like so many others in my regiment. I had done my duty well, even though I had not been paid regularly nor supplied with proper food and clothing. Today, Washington and other high ranking officers encouraged us to extend our enlistments for just six weeks and offered us a ten dollar bonus, virtually a month's extra pay, if we did so. After they spoke to the regiments and virtually no one responded favorably, General Washington, mounted on his horse, addressed our troops saying, “My brave fellows, you have done all I asked you to do, and more than could be reasonably expected; but your country is at stake, your wives, your houses, and all that you hold dear. You have worn yourselves out with fatigues and hardships, but we know not how to spare you. If you will consent to stay only one month longer, you will render that service to the cause of liberty, and to your country, which you probably never can do under any other circumstances. The present is emphatically the crisis, which is to decide our destiny.”

Although I saw that a number of men then agreed to stay, like a good number of other men I could not join them. While I had enlisted in a Massachusetts regiment, I was originally from New Jersey and was now very near the home and mother I had not seen for almost a decade due to my indenture and military service. I needed to see if my mother was still alive and to learn from her what my family name was. When I enlisted, I had adopted the name Gulick from one of the five men who had owned my indenture time. Now I wanted to know my real name. I believed in the ideals of the Revolution and wanted to see all men, both black and white, enjoy freedom and equality. I would not give up the fight, just change how I helped it. Taking up residence in Amwell Township, New Jersey I would serve in the local militia and fight the British whenever my company was called out to defend part of the State. *Text by Larry Kidder.*

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Also see www.TenCrucialDays.org

Dec 27 - Martha Reed A young resident of Trenton

21

During the day of December 27 my mother and my siblings set about trying to put our life back together after the previous day's battle. While many people we knew had fled from Trenton when the Hessians came and settled in for the winter, my mother had stayed with us children while my father was off with the army. Hessians had come to our house and taken many things from us, even after mother tried to convince them father was a British officer. When I awakened in the gray dawn after the stormy Christmas night I heard the beating of drums and the sound of firing. The Hessian soldiers occupying our house quickly left and all was uproar and confusion. Mother herded us to the cellar until the battle noises ceased, I heard neighbors calling to us to let us know it was safe to come out, that the Hessians were gone.

Today, with the Hessian occupiers gone, “my mother went all through the house, and found it had been ransacked and pillaged from garret to cellar. Her stores of household linen, mostly of her own spinning and her feather beds were gone – every article of silver had vanished – tables, and chairs were broken, furniture defaced, china and glass utterly ruined, while not a crumb remained of our winter stores.” We also learned more about the damages to our town and other families caused by the battle. I learned that our next door neighbor had been killed on his doorstep, a bullet had struck the blacksmith as he was getting into his cellar, and many other townspeople were injured by chance shots. The daughter of a friend was slightly wounded when a musket ball hit her while running home from a neighbor's house. The musket ball only sent the comb in her hair flying. Cannon fire had damaged a number of houses and broken window glass lay everywhere. Dead horses that had pulled Hessian cannon were lying in the street and we learned that a number of badly wounded Hessians had been left in town along with several Hessian doctors. Several of the wounded Hessians died during the day. We knew it was going to take many months to restore our town and our lives, but at least the Hessians had been defeated and most made prisoner. We knew it was a great victory for our army, even if it meant some suffering for us that would take many months to get back to normal. *Text by Larry Kidder.*

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

The Vought House, a Loyalist Homestead

In late 1776, Christopher and John Vought led Hunterdon County loyalists to join the British in New Brunswick. They fought in uniform beside British regulars with the New Jersey Volunteers. In the middle colonies, patriot rebels were often outnumbered by those who remained loyal British Americans and people disaffected with the war. The New Jersey Volunteers rivaled the state militia in size.

Christopher's parents had emigrated from the Palatine region of today's Germany. In 1759, Christopher purchased 285 acres of farmland near the Union Iron Works, built this stone house, and added 203 adjacent acres in 1770. Their Palatine culture is reflected in the home's walls and ceilings: instead of plaster on lathe, plaster is 'daubed' through a 'wattle' of woven twigs. The ceilings were finished with geometric patterns. The floor plan is that of a British American center hall colonial, with rooms on either side of the hall. The amalgam of cultures gave rise to a unique motif. A plaster serpent slithers down the center hall ceiling to the front and back, its head turned toward the front door.

The Vought family worked this large prosperous farm with the labor of an enslaved man and woman, augmented by seasonal labor. Christopher and Cornelia's son John was elected town clerk in 1774 and in 1775. Thomas Jones, their friend and neighbor, was elected to New Jersey's Provincial Congress. The outbreak of war at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, after a decade of protests beginning with the 1765 Stamp Act, spurred the independence movement. In New Jersey and other middle states, neighbors were divided and ultimately chose opposite sides in what became America's first civil war.

In June 1776, the Provincial Congress arrested Royal Governor William Franklin (Benjamin Franklin's son) and established a new state government. Three days later, John Vought and Joseph Lee from the Union Iron Works led two dozen men armed with clubs to attack militia Captain Thomas Jones at his tavern. Jones confronted them with his gun and said he'd blow their brains out if they didn't leave. They answered by twisting the gun out of his hands and beating him with their clubs. The Provincial Congress ordered them arrested. They were held in the Hunterdon County jail for almost two weeks. The mob's leaders, Christopher and John Vought and Joseph Lee, were each fined £100, while the others paid smaller fines. In November 1776, George Washington's army was in retreat across New Jersey, ahead of British and Hessian troops. They escaped across the Delaware in December in boats collected by Thomas Jones and others from Hunterdon's militia. Washington crossed the Delaware on Christmas night and surprised the Hessian garrison at Trenton, and over the next ten crucial days shifted the course of the war and restored patriot government in New Jersey.



New Jersey confiscated and sold the Vought farm, first the livestock and household goods in 1778, then the real estate in 1779. After the war, the Vought family were among over 30,000 colonists relocated to Nova Scotia by the British. Nearly a decade later, John reclaimed title to a 2,000-acre parcel near Albany, NY that Christopher had bought before the war. In 1792, John brought his parents, wife, eight children, and two enslaved servants to this parcel in upstate New York. His eighteen-year-old daughter Christiana kept a journal as the family sailed down the coast and up the Hudson. Christopher died in 1809. His grandson, also named Christopher, fought with the New York militia against the British in the War of 1812.

(continued on the next page)

With its rare material culture and fascinating narrative, this historic gem is being restored by the Vought House nonprofit. A dedicated group of volunteers and trustees working to restore the house and grounds to how it looked during the American Revolution. The accretions of two centuries are being stripped away, revealing a remarkable historic fabric. While uncovering secrets of this homestead, the Vought House non-profit works to increase awareness of how local loyalists and neutrals reflect a larger story of the divergent allegiances that complicated life in New Jersey, at the Crossroads of the American revolution. A couple of times each year, the non-profit holds events on the grounds and with tours of the house. The next event starts at 10 am on May 20th 2023. Presenters will highlight daily life on a rural farm in northern Hunterdon County in the mid-18th Century with a splash of Vought family and local history. The special theme for this event is bees and metheglin. Please visit VoughtHouse.Org to find out more.

Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association Grove Cleveland Birthplace State Historic Site



The parsonage during the annual 4th of July ice cream social.

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association (GCBMA) was incorporated in 1913 as a nonprofit organization, particularly “to honor and perpetuate the memory of Grover Cleveland.” In 1913, the GCBMA purchased Grover Cleveland’s birthplace, still a working parsonage, from the 1st Presbyterian Church of Caldwell NJ. Due to financial hardship as a result of the Great Depression, the GCBMA transferred ownership of the home to the State of NJ in 1933. From this point forward, GCBMA worked in full cooperation with the state as a voluntary auxiliary and still continues to do so.

The Association strives to promote greater interest in and use of this national historic site by a wider audience of the general public, including presidential “buffs” and scholars. The house and grounds are interpreted to represent the Caldwell minister’s home in a small New Jersey town around 1840. The collection includes objects here at the time of Grover Cleveland’s birth: the majority are from his later family life and distinguished public career. These objects in this

setting promote the study of history, citizenship, public service, and how someone born in humble beginnings could become one of our country’s greatest presidents and become the only president to serve two non-consecutive terms.

Cleveland’s father, the Reverend Richard Falley Cleveland, was the minister here from 1834-1841. Originally, this frame house had a two-story main section with a one-story kitchen to the east and a one-story lean-to at the rear. It was enlarged several times between 1848-1870 to meet the growing needs of the Presbyterian clergy. The house is a good example of local vernacular architecture.

Most of the first floor rooms portray the Manse as it was in 1837, the year Grover Cleveland was born. The decidedly middle-class character of the rooms reflect the day to day life of Reverend Richard Cleveland and his family. Among the artifacts on display from Cleveland’s early years are his cradle and original family portraits.

Contrasting sharply with the humble beginnings portrayed in these rooms, the Presidential exhibit gallery features a striking display of artifacts that reflect the financial and political success Cleveland achieved during the last quarter of the 19th century. Here, the mud-slinging campaign of 1884, the public’s intense interest in his wife and children, and America’s political climate throughout his split terms of office are explored.

The Birth Room, decorated for the Holiday House Tours by the Essex Fells Garden Club.



(continued on the next page)

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace State Historic Site is the only house museum in the country dedicated to the interpretation of President Cleveland's life. It is the nation's leading repository of Cleveland artifacts and political memorabilia. In our newly opened visitors center, we have a gift shop that is carefully curated by Akiko Axe and the Gift Shop committee. The shop contains a diverse array of items and books related to Grover Cleveland, Caldwell history, general presidential history, and 1830s-40s toys, games, and activities.

In addition, the GCBMA and state staff coordinate to put on various special programs throughout the year such as the Memorial Day Parade (pictured at right), the Fourth of July Ice Cream Social, Haunted History Tours, Radio Day, Holiday House Tours, and Grover Cleveland Week, a weeklong celebration leading up to Cleveland's birthday on March 18th.

This year, we celebrated Cleveland's birthday with a marathon of events including an open house for tours, several distinguished speakers, and a live broadcast of the ceremony taking place at Cleveland's gravesite in Princeton. To get updates on upcoming special events, visit the GCBMA's Facebook page or visit www.presidentcleveland.org for the latest news.



2022 Memorial Day Parade, with Matt Rollins portraying President Cleveland.

If you would like to tour the Grover Cleveland Birthplace outside of our special open-house events, make an appointment with us by emailing the state staff at visitgcb@dep.nj.gov, self-book your tour on our Eventbrite page, or calling the site at 973-226-0001. We also have excellent resources for educators such as traveling trunks full of 1800s touch artifacts and corresponding lesson plans as well as on-site educational programming for visiting groups.

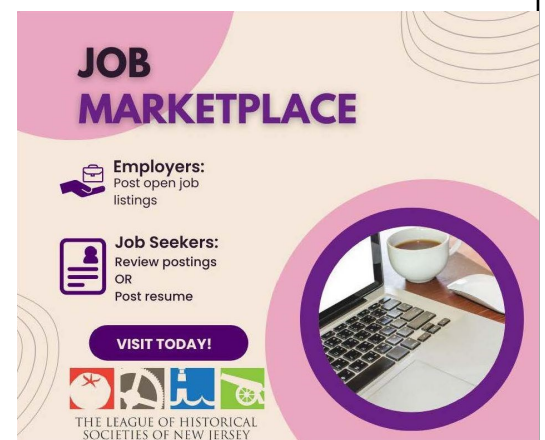
VISIT THE LEAGUE'S NEW JOB MARKETPLACE WEBSITE

Check out **page twelve** of this newsletter and look for the image below to learn about the League's new JOB MARKETPLACE.

Post your job openings or post your resume to find a history-related job close to home.

Just type in this url and start searching.

<https://www.lhsnj.org/job-marketplace>



THE EARL and the SCULPTRESS By Erik L. Burro

*(The extraordinary story of Bordentown's
colonial sculptress who made fame and
fortune prior to America's War of
Independence.)*

Within old Westminster Abbey,
Stands the Earl of Chatham, alone.
In wig and long robe of scarlet,
As the Elder Pitt, he is known.

This famous man of Parliament,
From whom Pittsburgh got its name,
Opposed war with the colonies,
For which George the Third was to blame.

His eyes and facial expression,
His poise, it's so easy to lapse,
You think, he's just being quiet,
Not really a figure of wax.

Here, for over two centuries,
Amidst the wood and the stone,
The last surviving wax portrait,
By Patience of Bordentown, known.

In childhood, she and her sister,
Shaped figures and faces of clay,
Even tried molding soft bread dough,
While learning an art through their play.

Raised as a Quaker was Patience,
Born Lovell, she married a Wright,
When widowed, raising three children,
She returned to her art in that plight.

Her sister made the suggestion,
Try wax, dear, you'll find it quite fine!
Easy to shape and to color,
Shows features really defined.

They began their enterprise fair,
Fine art in wax was their mission,
Making figures and busts, life-size,
Of the famous, for an exhibition.

From Boston to Charleston they toured,
Applause for exceptional work,
A gallery's opened in Penn's town,
Patience starts her own in New York.

Recovering from fire in Manhattan,
Patience shows she's up to her name,
Sailing across the Atlantic,
To London, to seek further fame.

With letters of self introduction,
From Benjamin Franklin, himself.
She creates a whole new collection,
Of figures and heads on the shelf.

Newspapers would write of Pall Mall,
Take time from business or leisure,

A visit to Chudleigh waxworks,
It's good conversation and pleasure!

Her patrons, the rich and the famous,
Came to meet her, view and to sit,
For three dimensional portraits,
For which, they would gladly remit.

She'd start with her own life story,
Of kin folk and rural beliefs,
Then callers were introduced to
Her parents and an Indian chief.

And after all works were presented,
Guests invited for tea, would clap,
Her hands were under her apron,
A head's taking shape in her lap.

Patrons from many persuasions,
Included the king and the queen.
Officials, merchants and gentry,
The clergy and those in-between.

This story began with Lord Chatham,
A statesman of highest repute,
Who opposed war in America,
No arms to end the dispute!

When his last address was ended,
Lords witnessed a fatal collapse,
His cause had died with his passing,
The prospect for peace had elapsed.

Patience was in on restoring,
An earlier funeral rite,
Pitt's effigy-lead procession,
Was as if for an ancient knight.

The crown had pressured the Lords,
As a body, not to attend.
Lord Chatham. Oh, Great Commoner!
Still in death, his king, did offend.

In her letters, Patience would say,
My guardian angel's been lost,
All reason has just now perished,
How grave for my homeland, the cost.

Her work, a public commission,
The last of her art you will find,
The Earl by New Jersey's sculptress.
Their memories are now intertwined.



Morristown National Historical Park to Celebrate 90th Anniversary

2023 marks the 90th anniversary of the Morristown National Historical Park. Signed into law by President Herbert Hoover



on his last day in office, the park creation was the culmination of several years of intense work to move the National Park Service into the field of historic preservation and historical themes. Over the decades the park has evolved with scholarship, inclusive history, and partner engagement. We will

be reflecting on this milestone throughout the year and have scheduled a number of programs and presenters to help us not only remember but strengthen our ties with our community.

Our website, www.nps.gov/morr, will have information on activities available for free. "Fan favorites" such as Prof. Richard Veit, who will present an update on recent archaeological work he's been involved with at the park; Maestro Robert Butts and the Baroque Orchestra of NJ will present a specially commissioned work; we will have a live theater production of a one-woman show and historical reenactors por-

traying Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Phillis Wheatley; photo-artist Xiomaro will provide insight into his work at the park; plus engaging presentations on little-known aspects of NPS history. Finally, we will offer engaging talks about some of the unique holdings within the park's museum collection.

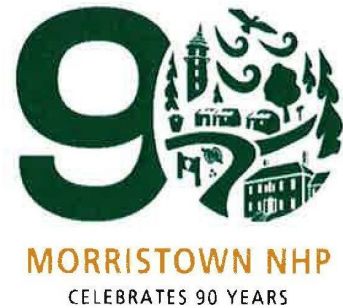
Most events will take place in the John Russell Pope designed Museum Building located at 30 Washington Place, Morristown, NJ. For visual queue, a c. 1936 image is included



showing the building under construction. For greater clarity, a modern image is also provided.

Any questions can be directed to Jude Pfister, chief curator, at 862-400-5972 or jude_pfister@nps.gov. Hope to see you soon.

Morristown National Historical Park



Join us for a year-long celebration of history, remembrance, and reflection! Morristown National Historical Park, the first such designated in the National Park System, will be 90 years old in 2023. Although 90 years as an institution is an admirable achievement, this is not simply a birthday celebration. Rather, it is a celebration of the historic preservation movement in which history became a public good.

In its early years, this concept was driven by wealthy Americans financing their personal impression of history, but the 20th century saw the rise of public history seeking democracy and representation in which our vast American story has a different sponsor: the people themselves. With the creation of public history and institutions like the National Historical Park system, including Morristown National Historical Park, this ongoing project of historical exploration is now part, after 90 years, of our institutional history.

Be part of our unfolding story and visit the Morristown National Historical Park in 2023 and beyond. Either in person or virtually, join us to learn the "stories behind the stories" - the history of the park and where it is headed for the semi-quincentennial in 2026.

30 Washington Place | Morristown, NJ 07960

Schedule of Events: www.nps.gov/morr

Plans to change Union County seal depicting Revolutionary War killing has some historians fighting back

By Brian Donohue, News 12, March 13, 2023

The official seal of Union County has long been a quirky subject of fascination and even pride among residents for its unique, albeit grisly, design: It's widely believed to be the only government seal in the United States that depicts a murder in progress. The seal depicts a British soldier shooting Hannah Caldwell in 1780, a pivotal moment in New Jersey's Revolutionary War history.

Caldwell, the wife of patriot and preacher James Caldwell, was gunned down in her family's home as British troops moved from Staten Island in an advance on George Washington's camp in Morristown.

Historians say outrage over her killing swelled the ranks and inspired the local militia, which turned the British back at the Battle of Springfield 16 days later.

But the scene depicting Hanna Caldwell's killing may not be on Union County the seal for long. Union County officials confirmed to News 12 New Jersey that they are planning a redesign. In a written statement, Union County Commissioner Chairman Sergio Granados said the artist's depiction of the killing is historically inaccurate because Hanna Caldwell was shot through the window of her bedroom, not standing in the doorway.

Granados also cited other factors including, "the fact that our seal contains the brutal murder of Hannah Caldwell could be viewed as insensitive to today's climate, involving awareness of gun violence or violence against women."

"We believe that as a county there is a much better way we can honor and pay tribute to our rich history and impact of Hannah Caldwell's tragic death," Granados' statement continues.

But those who work to preserve and educate the public about local history want to keep the seal as it is.

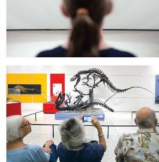
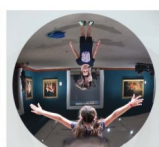
"I'm obviously very concerned from a historic point of view," said Barbara La Mort, president of the Union Township Historical Society, which runs the Caldwell Parsonage, a museum inside the preserved home where Hannah Caldwell died.

"The seal doesn't depict the exact circumstance of her death. It does depict her death. And because she died, more young men and teenage boys enlisted in the New Jersey militia and that made a difference," she added.

Besides being a martyr whose death may have saved the American war effort, La Mort says Hannah Caldwell still stands as a timeless example of female courage and grit. "It shows a woman as a hero," she said of the current county seal.

Caldwell had remained in the house with her children and refused to leave, as the British advanced—even after the couple's previous home in Elizabeth had been burned to the ground by the British. "So she's a great symbol for modern women," La Mort said. "Defending their homes. Defending their children, defending their values. Don't take this away."

The county says it will be enlisting the help of residents in choosing a new county seal in the coming weeks.



Celebrating 50 years

NJAM has been serving museum professionals and arts, history, and science institutions in the state of New Jersey since 1973! As we celebrate our 50th anniversary - one of the core areas of our Strategic Plan has always been advocacy.

Sharing some thoughts as we prepare-

"As someone who works in the fundraising sphere, I am tremendously excited to attend Museums Advocacy Day. Not only is it the perfect

opportunity to connect with other museum professionals from throughout the country, but it's also a crash course in lobbying and "making the case."

I'll be using my voice in Washington to push for continued support of the museum field as a whole, but long afterwards, I'll also be able to transfer these essential advocacy skills into my corporate and foundation proposals for support once I get back home. The experience I'll have at Museums Advocacy Day will absolutely enhance and improve the skills I use every day as a nonprofit fundraiser. I can't wait!" — **Audrey Carmeli** (Board Member)

Historical Society Loans Artifacts to New York Public Library

The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society is pleased to announce that items belonging to local naturalist, Mary Treat, are going to be included in an exhibition about Charles Darwin at the New York Public Library. Darwin was a noted scientist who first proposed a controversial theory of human evolution in the 19th century.

Objects from the Society's archives that will be loaned to the library include a copy of Treat's book, *Home Studies in Nature*, and hand-written research notes. The exhibit, organized by the library and Cambridge University, will be open to the public from April through July of this year.

It will offer insight into the life of Darwin and include copies of his most famous books and correspondence. During his lifetime, Darwin wrote and received over 15,000 letters as part of a global network of scientists who studied the natural world.

Treat was one of the scientists who corresponded with Darwin and shared theories about the development of plants and insect life. She discovered different species of both that were named in her honor and wrote five books about her findings.

After collaborating with Darwin in research on carnivorous plants, she uncovered an error in his work concerning the way the Venus flytrap lured its food. Darwin acknowledged her contribution in his book, *Insectivorous Plants*, published in 1875.

"We are honored to contribute some of the Treat material housed in our archives to this exhibit," said Patricia A. Martinelli, Society curator. "She has brought a lot of positive attention to the Society in recent years."

In 2016, nationally-known author Barbara Kingsolver visited VHAS to research Treat's life for her novel, *Unsheltered*, which was published two years later. Her work inspired local author Deborah Ein to write a biography titled *Mary Treat*, which was published in 2022.

Treat was born on September 7, 1830, in Trumansville, New York, and later moved with her family to Ohio. Her studies at a private girls' academy sparked an interest in nature that would last for the rest of her life.

In 1863, she married Dr. Joseph Burrell Treat, a medical doctor who wrote and lectured on subjects such as astronomy, physics, women's rights and abolitionism. They moved to Vineland in 1869 to join the growing intellectual community in the town. In the years that followed, Treat detailed the behavior of a variety of insects and growth cycles of plants.

At 39, she published her first scientific article in the *American Entomologist and Botanist*. She also wrote articles for the *American Entomologist and Botanist*, the *American Naturalist*, and the *Journal of the New York Entomological Society*. Her work also appeared in popular magazines such as *Harper's Monthly* and *Lippincott's*. During the next 28 years, she wrote 76 articles and five books. One book, *Injurious Insects of the Farm and Field*, originally published in 1882, was so popular that it was reprinted five times.

Treat separated from her husband in 1874 and supported herself with her writing. She began a lifelong correspondence with other scientists and naturalists, including Harvard botanist Asa Gray, Charles V. Riley, and Sir Joseph Hooker. These men were impressed by her knowledge of the natural world. Through her correspondence with Gray, Treat was introduced by letter to Darwin, telling him she was writing "at the request of their mutual friend and colleague." Between 1871 and 1876, she exchanged fifteen letters with Darwin.

Darwin later stated that her experiments were "by far the best, as far as known to me, which have ever been made." In her later years, Treat became an active member of the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society, where she donated her research papers, her correspondence, and other records. In 1916, she moved to New York State to live with her sister. Treat died on April 11, 1923, at 92 years of age, in Pembroke, New York, due to complications from a fall. She is buried at Siloam Cemetery, Vineland's first cemetery.

CAPTION: Vineland naturalist Mary Treat will be included in an exhibit on the life of Charles Darwin, presented by the New York Public Library between April and July 2023. Mary Treat studied the lives of insects and plants along the eastern seaboard and discovered a number of new species that were named in her honor.





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs
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Glenn Cashion
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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.



RevolutionNJ



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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 2023. 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, 2024. 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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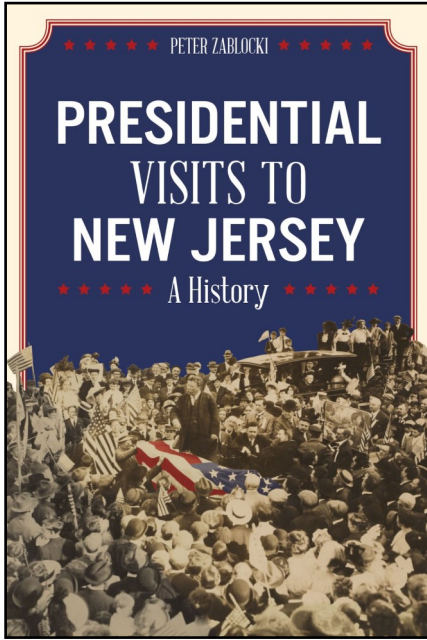


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NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

Presidential Visits to New Jersey: A History By Peter Zablocki



Some, like Abraham Lincoln in 1861, came to garner support. Others, like N.J. Governor Woodrow Wilson in 1912, remained and rode that support to the White House. And still, others, like James Garfield in 1881, came to die. New Jersey's past is full of memorable Presidential visits—and home to some lesser-known ones. Thousands of people came out to support Teddy Roosevelt, his cousin Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Lyndon B. Johnson.

Others like Franklin Pierce, Benjamin Harrison, Ulysses S. Grant, and even more recently, Donald J. Trump saw the Jersey Shore as the perfect rest stop from the hustle and bustle of the capital. The story of these visits and others like them transcend politics to show the historical significance of not just the great men, but also that of the Garden State.

Author Peter Zablocki presents the heated elections, political events, and critical moments of Presidents in New Jersey.

Seton Hall University A History, 1856-2006 Dermot Quinn

Founded in 1856 by Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley of Newark, Seton Hall University has played a large part in New Jersey and American Catholic life for nearly two centuries. From its modest beginnings as a small college and seminary to its present position as a major national university, it has always sought to provide “a home for the mind, the heart, and the spirit.”

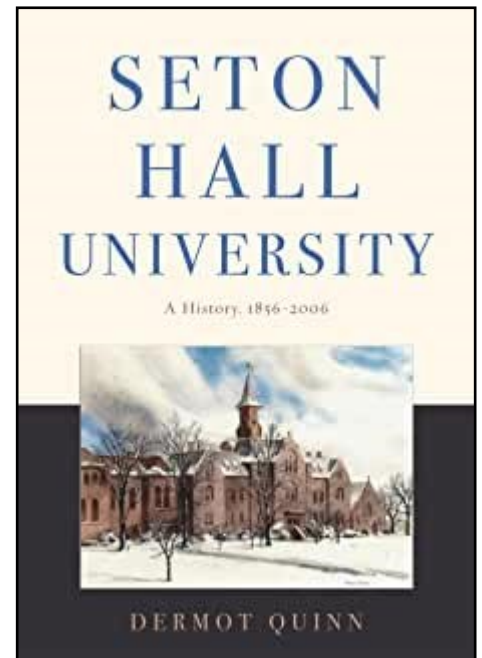
In this vivid and elegantly written history, Dermot Quinn examines how Seton Hall was able to develop as an institution while keeping faith with its founder's vision. Looking at the men and women who made Seton Hall what it is today, he paints a compelling picture of a university that has enjoyed its share of triumphs but has also suffered tragedy and loss. He shows how it was established in an age of prejudice and transformed in the aftermath of war, while exploring how it negotiated between a distinctly Roman Catholic identity and a mission to include Americans of all faiths.

Seton Hall University not only recounts the history of a great educational institution, it also shares the personal stories of the people who shaped it and were shaped by it: the presidents, the priests, the faculty, the staff, and of course, the students.

"An insightful piece of cultural history, explaining how Catholics built their own institutions, debated among themselves how these institutions served a greater good, and struggled to grow and adapt their schools to a more-secular age. The scholarship is profound."

—Terry Golway, author of *Frank and Al: FDR, Al Smith, and the Unlikely Alliance That Created the Modern Democratic Party*

\$39.95. (cloth). 408 pages, 42 b&w images, 4 color images, 7 x 10



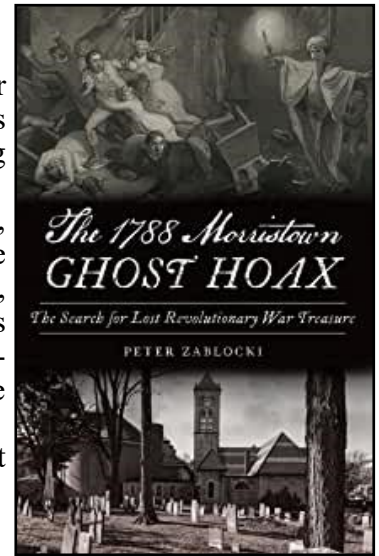
The 1788 Morristown Ghost Hoax: The Search for Lost Revolutionary War Treasure By Peter Zablocki

A Fabulous Fable of the Supernatural Kind!

The saga of the Morristown ghost has been told around campfires and dinner tables in Morris County for generations. Local legend claimed British Loyalists secretly buried stolen Patriot treasure on Schooley Mountain as they fled the oncoming forces of George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

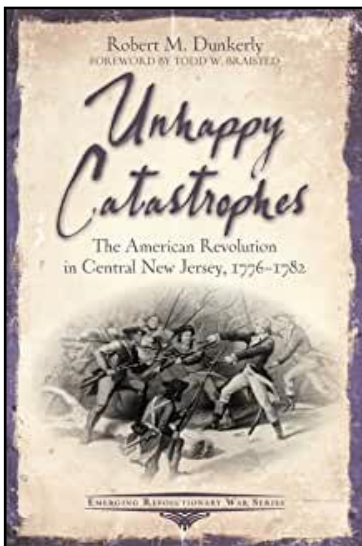
Years later in 1788, a former schoolteacher from Connecticut, Ransford Rodgers, convinced local prominent Morristown families that a ghost was protecting the true location of the treasure and he alone could exorcise it. Little did the victims know, Rodgers was perpetuating an elaborate hoax and eventually extorted large sums of money from the embarrassed local elite. The tale has been recounted in various sensational pamphlets and publications ever since, leaving behind a mystery of what is true or myth.

Author Peter Zablocki separates fact from fiction in the story of the great Morristown ghost hoax.



In the January issue we included Maxine Lurie's **Taking Sides in Revolutionary New Jersey: Caught in the Crossfire**, as a prelude to the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. In the next two issues we will feature more books about the Revolutionary War in New Jersey.

Unhappy Catastrophes: The American Revolution in Central New Jersey, 1776-1782 By Robert Dunkerly



“The Importance of the North River (the Hudson), and the sanguine wishes of all to prevent the enemy from possessing it, have been the causes of this unhappy catastrophe.” So wrote General George Washington in 1776 as the British invaded New Jersey. Worse was to come, as the British overran the state, and the Americans suffered one unhappy catastrophe after another.

Central New Jersey witnessed many small battles and important events during the American Revolution. This area saw it all: from spies and espionage, to military encampments like Morristown and Middlebrook, to mutinies, raids, and full-blown engagements like Bound Brook, Short Hills, and Springfield. The British had their own catastrophes too. So did civilians caught in the middle.

In the fall of 1776, British forces drove the Americans out and secured the state. Following the battles of Trenton and Princeton, New Jersey became a battleground.

The spring of 1777 saw the formation of a new Continental Army, one that served the rest of the war. That spring, British and American forces clashed in a series of small but sharp battles.

By summer, British General Howe tried to lure Washington into a major engagement, but the Americans avoided the trap. As the conflict dragged on, civilians became engulfed in the fray, and a bitter civil war erupted, continuing until the end of the conflict.

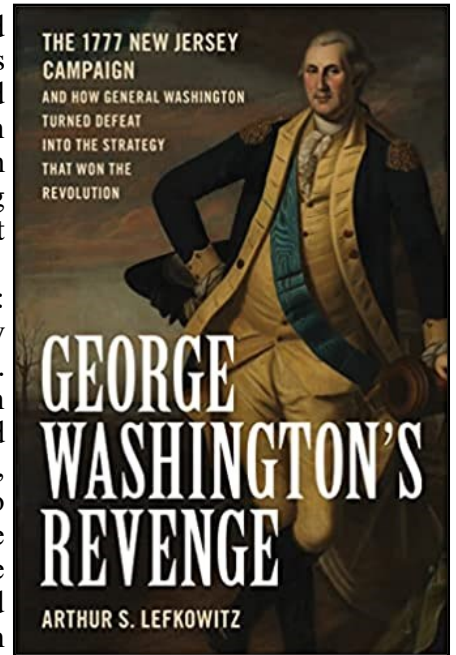
In *Unhappy Catastrophes: The American Revolution in Central New Jersey, 1776–1782*, Robert M. Dunkerly follows the course of the war through its various phases and details lesser-known battles, military campsites, raids, espionage, and more. The book also includes historic sites to visit, markers, and websites for further research and study. This part of New Jersey saw more action during the Revolution than anywhere else in the young nation and has been called the Cockpit of the Revolution. To truly understand the war, look at central New Jersey.

George Washington's Revenge By Arthur S. Lefkowitz

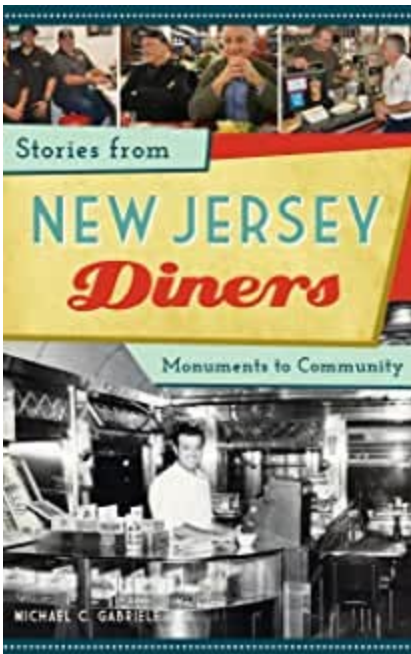
In late August 1776, a badly defeated Continental Army retreated from Long Island to Manhattan. By early November, George Washington's inexperienced army withdrew further into New Jersey and, by the end of the year, into Pennsylvania. During this dark night of the American Revolution—"the times that try men's souls"—Washington began developing the strategy that would win the war. In this illuminating account, Arthur Lefkowitz reveals how George Washington turned defeat into victory.

During his retreat across New Jersey, Washington reconceived the war: keep the army mobile, target isolated detachments of the British Army, rely on surprise and deception, form partisan units, and avoid large-scale battles. This new strategy first bore fruit in the crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 and the attack on the British at Trenton and Princeton. From there, Washington took up winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, and moved into the mountains, an ideal position from which to check British movements toward Philadelphia or north up the Hudson. The British tried and failed several times to coax Washington into a decisive battle. Stymied, the British were forced to attack Philadelphia by sea, and they would not be able to seize Philadelphia in time to support the British invasion of upstate New York which ended in defeat at Saratoga.

Lefkowitz relies on a lifetime of deep research on the Revolutionary War and close knowledge of New Jersey to tell this exciting, important story whose impact rippled throughout the rest of the war.



Stories from New Jersey Diners: Monuments to Community By Michael C. Gabriele



Diners are where communities across the Garden State go to celebrate milestones, form lifetime bonds and take comfort in food. Daily life at the counter or in the booth inspires sentimental recollections that reflect the state's spirit and history.

Late-night eats fueled Wildwood's wild rock-and-roll days. An entrepreneur traveled eight thousand miles from India and opened a diner in Shamong. From an impromptu midnight wedding in an Elizabeth lunch wagon to a Vietnam veteran sustained by a heartfelt note from a beloved Mount Holly waitress, these are true tales from the soul of New Jersey.

Author Michael C. Gabriele documents colorful stories from the Diner Capital of the World. Michael has also written *The History of Diners in New Jersey*, *Colonial Taverns of New Jersey: Libations, Liberty & Revolution*, *The Golden Age of Bicycle Racing in New Jersey*, and *New Jersey Folk Revival Music: History & Tradition*.

League of Historical Societies 2023 Summer Meeting
Hosted by the Hunterdon County Historical Society at the Flemington
Presbyterian Church, 10 E. Main Street, Flemington NJ 08822
Saturday, June 17, 2023

9:30 a.m.	Registration, breakfast and coffee, information table
10 a.m.	Welcome from Marcia Karrow, Mayor of Flemington, Chair of Hunterdon 300th and Hunterdon County Historical Society Trustee
10:15 a.m.	Robert Fenster from Revolution NJ and the League Business Meeting
10:45 a.m.	Break
11 a.m.	Program: Hunterdon County: "Its Geology and How It Affected Our History" with John Allen
Noon	Lunch
1 p.m.	Tour: The Deats/Thatcher Native American Exhibition at the Flemington Public Library with Dr. Greg Herman, Mark Zdepski and Ed Fimbel III
2 p.m.	Tour: Historic Downtown Flemington with Janice Armstrong. Please note: In the event of inclement weather, we will instead offer a tour of the Doric House Museum and Hiram E. Deats Memorial Library.
3:15 p.m.	Dvoor Farm House tour

Local Accommodations: Hampton Inn, 14-B Royal Road, Flemington, 908-284-9427.
Ramada by Wyndham, 250 Route 202 Flemington, 908-782-7472.

For questions before June 17, 908-782-1091. For questions on June 17, 908-500-8942.

To register, complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$30, payable to the Hunterdon County Historical Society, 114 Main Street, Flemington, NJ 08822. Please register by June 9, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

Directions to the Flemington Presbyterian Church

The Flemington Presbyterian Church is located at 10 East Main St. in Flemington. The church is barrier free. There is a parking lot behind the church where guests can park.

From the North:

Interstate 287 to Route 202 South. Travel south for 13.5 miles and turn right onto Church Street (also called Voorhees Corner Road). Continue on Church Street through the lights for Route 31 and Broad Street. Then turn right onto Main Street in Flemington. Follow Main Street for 0.7 mile. You will see the Soldier's Monument at the Y intersection and the church behind the monument. Bear to the right at the Y and turn left into the church parking lot, just behind the church.

From the South:

From Interstate 295N take exit 72 onto Route 31/Pennington Road. In East Amwell Route 31 will merge with 202 north. Continue to the Flemington traffic circle. Follow signs to Route 12 West. At the next little circle, turn right on Main Street. Follow Main Street for about one mile to the Soldier's Monument at the Y intersection; the church is behind the monument. Bear to the right at the Y and turn left into the church parking lot, just behind the church.

From the West:

Route 12 East to first traffic circle at the Dvoor Farm. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around the traffic circle to Mine Street. Follow Mine Street for 0.7 to its end and turn left onto Main Street in Flemington. Follow Main Street to the Soldier's Monument at the Y intersection and the church behind the monument. Bear to the right at the Y and turn left into the church parking lot, just behind the church.

From the East:

Route 206 to Amwell Road (Route 514). Turn left on Clover Hill Road. Turn right on Old York Road. Turn left on Voorhees Corner Road (Route 650), which will become Church Street when you cross Route 202 South. Continue on Church Street through the lights for Route 31 and Broad Street. Then turn right onto Main Street in Flemington. Follow Main Street for 0.7 mile. You will see the Soldier's Monument at the Y intersection and the church behind the monument. Bear to the right at the Y and turn left into the church parking lot, just behind the church.

