



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 48 No. 3 www.lhsnj.org September 2023

**Saturday, November 4, 2023
Fall Meeting**

**Sparta Historical Society,
Sparta, Sussex County**

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

League Awarded Co-Sponsorship Grant by NJ Historical Commission

The League is the proud recipient of a co-sponsored project grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. This grant award will allow the organization to launch new initiatives, support popular existing programs, and continue to grow the NJ history field. Cristen Piatnochka is joining our staff in the newly created position of Director of Strategic Initiatives. Cristen brings a wealth of experience, having worked with history organizations

across the state for the past ten years.

This funding will enable the League to create deeper relationships with its members to better understand their unique needs. Please be on the lookout for further communications, as we will reach out to each member individually and through their organizations to see how we can better serve YOU!

Future plans include offering additional professional development workshops, creating more networking opportunities, and highlighting public history resources. The League is proud to represent all 21 counties, and we want to coordinate conversation and communication throughout our vast state.

This is an exciting time for the League as we embark on new opportunities for the organization to grow, learn, and connect. Central to our mission is our commitment to our members—you all are key to what we do! Please reach out to us with any news, questions, or ideas! We want to create a robust dialogue with what our members need and want.

History Funding Available through the County History Partnership Program By Niquole Primiani, Chief Programs Officer, New Jersey Historical Commission

The County History Partnership Program (CHPP) was created in 2015 to extend local re-granting programs to all of the state's twenty-one counties. The program enables the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) to support both existing and emerging local history organizations and practitioners. Through the partnership with county re-granting agencies, NJHC support can more effectively reach history organizations and projects in communities

(continued on page three)

SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

November 4, 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 and Chatham Borough, Chatham Township,
Morris County**

Spring 2026—

Summer 2026—Proprietary House, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County

We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth, 908-240-0488, barthlinda123@aol.com, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area. **We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.**

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

President (2024)

Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and
Preservation Society

First Vice President (2024)

Bruce Tell
Canal Society of New Jersey

Vice President, Northern (2024)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Vice President, Central (2024)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice President, Southern (2024)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission

Secretary (2024)

Hannah Kerwin
Somerset County Library System

Treasurer (2024)

Pary Tell
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

Trustee, Northern (2026)

Michelle Munn
Mount Tabor Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2024)

Eve Morawski
Durand-Hedden House & Garden

Trustee, Central (2024)

Jeffrey McVey
Lambertville Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2026)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2026)

Trustee, Southern (2024)

Ralph Cooper
Historical Preservation Society of
Upper Township

Trustee-at-Large (2024)

Patricia Wells
Township of Chatham Historical
Society

Trustee-at-Large (2026)

Donald Katz, Esq.
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2024)

James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township
Library

The following are valuable mem-
bers of our board, but are not elected
positions:

Executive Director

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

Membership Chairman

Jennifer Coultas
Boonton Historical Society

Publications Awards Committee Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush
Kate Malcolm
Dorothy Pietrowski

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I recently went on a trip with my family to the US West Coast. We started our trip in San Francisco. On our first day, we toured Winchester Mystery House (see image, page 10), which had a guided tour of the various rooms in the building. The house was built by Sarah Winchester, the wife of the gun maker, who was said to be haunted by the spirits of those killed by the famous rifle and felt the only way to survive was to continually add rooms to the house.

Our group consisted of three children under the age of 10 and four adults. The tour by the docent was excellent but the younger members of our group did not absorb much of the information. They were more interested in the gift shop where they could buy ghost pillows and other items.

The second day we went to Alcatraz (see image, page 10), the former prison. When we arrived at the island, to our surprise, we were given earphones and sent off on a self-guided audio tour. We were not sure how this type of tour would work for the three young children. They loved it and it was the first museum that my grandson Mason did not sprint through. We agreed that the audio tour had been a much more effective way of keeping the interest of children since the younger generation is very sensory.

How this could be implemented in our NJ museums, in old houses, and other buildings is a challenge. Alcatraz has a budget for audio players. Also, people might be afraid to use an item that is used by several people before being cleaned. I wonder if down the road, an inexpensive phone app could be developed that could allow a person to use their own device to hear about the museum or artifact while on earphones with their phone. I know some museums use QR codes to communicate information. It may sound far-fetched, but I remember in the 1960s thinking how cool it was when Capt. Kirk communicated through a handheld device but never thought it would be an essential personal item.

(continued on page ten)

DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 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.

Celebrating 125 Years of The Monmouth Historical Association

The Monmouth County Historical Association has opened its brand-new exhibition, “Highlights: 125 Years of the Monmouth County Historical Association,” at its headquarters building located at 70 Court Street in Freehold, New Jersey.

The exhibition celebrates the amazing collections that the Association has gathered over more than a century.

More than 125 objects and artifacts are on view, including the breathtaking “**Washington Rallying the Troops at Monmouth**” by Emanuel Leutze. Painted in 1857, the work dramatically captures a pivotal moment during the Battle of Monmouth. This work is on permanent view in the Freehold Gallery, surrounded by other artifacts and works of art related to the Battle of Monmouth.

The Leutze painting is the cornerstone of the *Highlights* exhibit and will be prominently featured in all three of our planned Revolutionary War exhibits that will run in the main museum for the next 5-6 years. The Leutze is a National, State and County treasure. We invite you to come see it!

Also on view in “Highlights” are textiles, furniture, paintings, posters, ceramics, and much more. The museum is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. “Highlights” will run through May of 2024. Visit the Association’s website for more information at monmouthhistory.org.

In addition, the museum has opened a 125th Anniversary exhibition, *Highlights. Julia's Wardrobe*, an exhibit of Julia Hartshorne’s magnificent 19th-century gowns, on display at the Taylor Butler House, 127 Kings Highway, Middletown.

Chuck Jones is the association’s new president, and a new executive committee is also in place. The museum will open the second exhibition in the *Living and Breathing Series*, *Choices* (the first being our award-winning exhibit *Beneath the Floorboards, Whispers of the Enslaved at Marlpit Hall*). *Choices* will open at the Covenhoven House, 150 West Main Street, Freehold, in the fall of 2023. It tells the story of Elizabeth Covenhoven and her enslaved as she met General Clinton at her door days before the Battle of Monmouth.



League grant award (continued from page one)

History Funding Available through the County History Partnership Program

throughout the state. Re-granting agencies, by resolution of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of their respective counties, bear responsibility for fostering the preservation, understanding, and enjoyment of the local history of their respective counties.

Launching its first three-year cycle in 2017, the Commission and its county partners have invested a total of \$3.9 million in 1,191 organizations to advance New Jersey history. (2023 numbers are not available at this time.)



Educational Programming for the 250th Anniversary from the NJ Historical Commission

HISTORY HAPPENED HERE

In commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding, students around the state will be engaging in local historical research. They will be challenged to create projects that examine the history that happened in their proverbial backyards, aligning the people and events of our past with the revolutionary

ideals of the founding. This statewide project will involve our schools, museums, libraries, and public history sites as we aim to inculcate a love and appreciation of history among young people. Although the revolutionary ideals are the focus, student projects can focus on any time period in the history of the United States. This program is in development, with a trial run taking place in the 2024-2025 school year. For more information, contact Bob Fenster at robert.fenster@sos.nj.gov.

TELLING OUR STORY

The lives of ordinary people and those who have been underrepresented in historical examinations of the American Revolution are presented through grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The materials are designed to be able to be used by anyone, not just educators. The activities allow participants to consider the difficult decisions made by the various people profiled, and the videos provide additional insight into these important stories. For more information, contact Hank Bitten at hbitten@optonline.net.

To view the **Library of Ordinary People in New Jersey** at the Time of the American Revolution, visit <https://teachingsocialstudiesorg.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/the-library-of-ordinary-people-in-new-jersey-at-the-time-of-the-american-revolution-jan-2023-1.pdf>

K-5 CIVICS INITIATIVE

RevolutionNJ is working with K-5 educators to improve civics education at the elementary level. This program is in its embryonic phase, but look for updates in the near future. For more information, contact Bob Fenster at robert.fenster@sos.nj.gov.

Journey Through Jersey

Launched by the New Jersey Historic Trust in 2017, "Journey Through Jersey" is the first website dedicated solely to promote heritage tourism in New Jersey and to support and improve quality visitor experiences at the state's many and diverse historic sites.

The mission of "Journey Through Jersey" is to promote heritage tourism in New Jersey and to support and improve quality visitor experiences at the state's many and diverse historic sites.

DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF NEW JERSEY

New Jersey history is everywhere, hidden away on quiet back roads, right out in plain site, in urban areas, country towns and villages, and along the Jersey shore. Historic sites across the state tell intriguing stories of New Jersey's diverse, inventive, creative and revolutionary people.

Stand in a room where George Washington made critical decisions during the Revolution. Visit the place where Thomas Edison's creativity gave us light bulbs and moving pictures. Take in a 19th century farmstead and a village where New Jersey's famous blueberries were first cultivated. Stroll the seaside town famous for its Doo-Wop motels. Climb inside Lucy the Elephant. The choices are many - explore on your own or plan your trip by choosing an itinerary, interest, or region. History is alive and waiting for you.



Visit www.journeythroughjersey.com and begin your own "Journey Through Jersey."

Old Barracks Museum, Indian King Tavern, and the Wallace House State Historic Site Awarded Grants from the National Park Service to Rehabilitate and Prepare the Buildings for the Nation's 250th Anniversary

The National Park Service awarded the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection a combined \$1 million for two state historic sites in the inaugural round of funding for the **Semiquincentennial Grant Program** commemorating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States. The funds come to the DEP in the form of two \$500,000 grants for restorative work to the Indian King Tavern (left) in Haddonfield, Camden County, and to the Wallace House (below, right) in Somerville, Somerset County.



In the next round, the Old Barracks Museum (below, left) was awarded a \$750,000 Semiquincentennial Grant from the National Park Service. This grant will be used to replace the roof of the 265-year-old building. The grants were part of \$10 million awarded by NPS to 20 cultural resource preservation projects across 14 states in order to prepare for the 250th anniversary of the United States in 2026.

The Trenton Barracks were constructed in 1758 to house British soldiers during the French and Indian War, but provided major assistance to the Continental Army following the Battles of Trenton by being converted into a military hospital **by the command** of George Washington to administer smallpox inoculations.



“Both of these sites (Indian King Tavern and Wallace House) hold the history of critical moments in New Jersey’s and our

country’s history and founding as a free nation,” said John Cecil, Assistant Commissioner for State Parks, Forests & Historic Sites. “We thank the National Park Service for these grants, which will go toward repairs to ensure that the Indian King Tavern and the Wallace House continue standing for future generations.”

“National parks and National Park Service programs serve to tell authentic and complete history, provide opportunities for exploring the legacies that impact us today and contribute to healing and understanding,” said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. “Through the Semiquincentennial Grant Program, we are supporting

projects that showcase the many places and stories that contributed to the evolution of the American experience.”

It was in the Indian King Tavern public house, in the heart of downtown Haddonfield, where New Jersey officially became a state in 1777. Here the newly formed New Jersey Legislature met during the first nine months of 1777 to discuss and vote upon issues of war, and here New Jersey’s official designation was changed from colony to state. Today, the first and second floors of the site are open to the public.

Philadelphia merchant John Wallace’s New Jersey country home, the largest private dwelling built in New Jersey during the Revolutionary War, served as Gen. Washington’s winter headquarters for the 1778-79 Middlebrook Cantonment. Aides-de-camp John Laurens and Alexander Hamilton conferred with the commander in chief here while Martha Washington joined her husband to host an Native American delegation and diplomats from France and Spain. Hear the histories of women and men in slavery and freedom who composed General Washington’s “military family” during the Continental Army’s most successful winter camp.

About the Old Barracks Museum, the Indian King Tavern, and the Wallace House State Historic Site:
The Old Barracks Museum, 101 Barrack Street, Trenton, is open to visitors. For hours, admission, and more information, visit www.barracks.org. **The Wallace House**: 71 Somerset Street, Somerville, NJ 08876; 908-725-1015; wallacedutch@dep.nj.gov. Historic house open by guided tour only. Call or email for free appointments available Wednesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. **The Indian King Tavern**: 856-429-6792; 233 Kings Highway, Haddonfield, NJ 08033; **Grounds Hours** Wednesday- Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. and 1-4 p.m. Sunday 1-4 p.m. **Tour Hours** Please call the site for hours of operation.





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Pequannock Township Historical Society

A Quick History of the Martin Berry House, Pequannock Township

The Martin Berry House is a story-and-a-half, center hall, five-bay stone Dutch house with a gambrel roof and a small one-story addition on the east side. Built by four generations of the Berry family, this house is the quintessential example of the evolution of a northern New Jersey Dutch farmstead from a simple utilitarian house to a high-style symmetrical architecture.



According to local historians, the Berry family arrived in this area between 1710 and 1712, making them some of the first families of Pequannock and Morris County. The progenitor of the family, Samuel Berry, emigrated from Holland before 1690. Martin Berry was born in 1693 and married Maria Roome (1693-1734) in 1720. It is believed that at some point after his marriage in 1720 but before 1736, when he was known to live locally, he built the original house on the property. With the establishment of the Dutch Reformed Church in 1736, Martin Berry was named a deacon.

The house in its current state likely went through at least five phases of construction. The original house was roughly 30 ft. across the south and 21 ft. deep. It was one to 1½ stories, stone, oriented south as most Dutch homes were, and built into the hill with a full basement accessed by a stairway beside the front door. The first addition added a second room on the east side and extended

the house beyond the bluff.

The first three phases were completed by the Berry family over its 150-year tenure in the house. The fourth phase was completed by the May family at the very end of the 19th century. Charles and Eleanor Bogert, strong believers in local history and the driving force behind the house's preservation, completed the last in the second half of the 20th century. Research has concluded that the home is the only pre-Revolutionary building substantially unaltered in Pequannock Township. The Martin Berry House was included in the 1939 Historic American Buildings Survey and was listed on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places in 1973.

This was the main house for a farm originally encompassing approximately 300 acres in what is now Pompton Plains. Beginning in the early 1800s, this area included a general store and post office at the southwest corner of the property. In 1936, the house operated as the "Stone House Inn," serving dinners from chickens raised on the property, until the Great Depression brought foreclosure in 1938. The house had been continuously occupied by families from the time it was built until Eleanor Bogert sold it to the township.

No history of the Martin Berry House is



complete without noting the role of Charles and Eleanor Bogert in preserving it. Though unaware of the exact heritage of the house at first, they knew it was unique when they purchased it in 1951. They made repairs and some alterations, restoring the house to its former glory and populating it with vintage furnishings, making it a kind of living museum. For many years they occasionally opened the house for tours and made a point of inviting school children to learn about life in previous centuries. After Charles passed, Eleanor began the process of persuading the township to purchase her legacy. With help from the newly formed Friends of the Martin Berry House, she realized her dream in January 2017. It became the home of the Pequannock Township Historical Society, which operates it under agreement with the township.



The township retained HMR Architects to draw up and execute a three-phase preservation plan, a process that began just as the pandemic struck. As a result, the process has dragged on into its third year, delaying restoration and improvements from basement to attic. The current phase rebuilding the four chimneys and replacing the roof is, thankfully, nearly complete. We will soon be able to begin furnishing the house and installing exhibitions, initiating programs, and opening for tours and other uses. We are tentatively scheduling a grand reopening for spring 2024.

History Cruise Aboard the *Navesink Queen*

by Capt. Bill McKelvey

I spotted the notice of this cruise on the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey email broadcast and it immediately sounded very interesting to me, so I signed up for the August 6th, 2023 event. Arriving early at Frank's Pier, behind Sissy's Restaurant, Atlantic Highlands, I noticed a lot of surface activity in the shallow water near the breakwater where I parked—access to the *Seastreak* ferries—schools of little fish were being pursued by bigger fish and birds. I walked out to the end of Frank's Pier where the *Navesink Queen* was tied up between the *Festiva* of Teal Cruises and the Research Vessel *Blue Sea*.

Motor yacht *Festiva* is an 85-foot party boat for private charters with a spacious dance floor. Seeing the Teal Cruises vessel reminded me of the cruise I arranged for Canal Society of NJ members, many years ago, on their earlier fishing party boat *Teal*, which was at the time docked on the south side of Staten Island. Our



charter included a tour of NY Harbor; dinner onboard the former Lackawanna Railroad Ferryboat *Binghamton* where, due to the very shallow water we had to climb over the bow of *Teal* to access the ferryboat; and finally viewing of the NY City fireworks, which were delayed by low clouds. When they finally did the fireworks show, the display was actually above the clouds, and we did not get back to the Staten Island dock until midnight.

Navesink Queen is owned by Classic Boat Rides (CBR) of Atlantic Highlands and was chartered by the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society for another of their periodic narrated History Cruises. Capt. Dan Schade

is master and owner of the vessel, which CBR won in an online auction published in "Boats & Harbors" magazine in 2019. The 60-foot-long vessel has a registered capacity of 150, but carried only 60 comfortably on

this trip. She was built in 1986 and was formerly the *Elizabeth River Ferry II*, which was operated between Norfolk and Hampton Roads by Hampton Roads Transit. It was built to look like an old-time river steamboat with decorative twin smokestacks and a stern paddlewheel.

We departed promptly at noon, backed out of our dock, and spun around to head east toward Highlands. We soon passed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hopper dredge *Murden* (pictured right), which was removing sand bars and deepening channels. This 156-foot shallow draft vessel draws less than 5 feet of water but can remove 512 cubic yards of sand on each trip out to the dumping grounds at sea.



Next, we passed Highlands, which was the location where I arranged for the recovery and transport of the remains of a former Morris Canal boat to Waterloo Village for the Canal Society of New Jersey (vessel in transit below). The now raised narrow house under which the canal boat was found can be clearly seen from the water. The full story can be read by looking up “Highlands Canal Boat” and/or “Morris Canal Boat Recovery” on the internet. Photos are also posted on the Liberty Historic Railway website under “Funded Projects.” AND, you must visit the outstanding interpretive exhibit that the Canal Society of NJ has created at Waterloo Village, but be sure

to check that the exhibit will be interpreted by canal society people before you visit.

At this time lunch was served. There was potato salad, pasta salad and a choice of sandwiches: turkey and Swiss, roast beef, Italian, and chicken parmesan. They also had bags of chips & other snacks, plus cookies. All kinds of drinks were available for purchase. Utensils came wrapped in a very pretty “Jersey Shore” napkin depicting lots of sailboats and listing



ocean front towns from Sandy Hook to Cape May. I took mine home as a souvenir.

Our cruise continued east and then turned south to the junction of the Navesink and Shrewsbury rivers where we reversed and headed north. Twice we passed under the modern, high-level highway bridge that provides access to Sandy Hook. Traffic on the bridge was at a standstill; motorists wait hours to get into the beaches on Sandy Hook on busy summer weekends. Years ago, the predecessor low level bridge carried the track of the Central Railroad of New Jersey (CNJ) branch, which went south along the coast to Long Branch and Bay Head (see image below). This branch also connected to a rail line that was built out onto Sandy Hook. This was a necessity to transport materials, armaments, and personnel for the fortifications and structures built on the Hook. The rail line was heavily damaged by several hurricanes and finally, a year after the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944, passenger service ended. Freight service across the bridge and to Sandy Hook ended in 1948.

The cruise was not only pleasant, but was a learning experience as well. I knew of the nine 16” barrels on the USS Battleship New Jersey (BB-62 – “The World’s Greatest Battleship”) and of the three spare 16” barrels brought north from Virginia by the Mahan Collection



Foundation; one is on display at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, the second is on display at the BB-62 in Camden, and the third was trucked to Basking Ridge for display. I did not know that another 16" barrel from BB-62 was moved in 2015 to the Monmouth County Park System, Hartshorne Woods Park, Battery Lewis, near the Twin Lights —here it is (►).

Our cruise continued north along Sandy Hook to Officers Row, near Sandy Hook Lighthouse. It was sad to see the deterioration of the buildings, but good to learn that some of them are being leased long-term to individuals who are required in exchange to restore the structures.

We next turned west across the open waters of Raritan Bay. A large number of boaters—both sail and motor—were taking advantage of the beautiful day. We came close to the Earle Naval Weapons Station mile-long pier, which juts out into Raritan Bay.

There was an ammunition ship tied up, but no activity. They have an extensive internal rail system that connects inland bunkers with the pier, and the ammunition is moved by their railroad. On two occasions in the past, rail excursions were permitted out onto the piers: the Jersey Central Chapter on May 30 & 31, 1981 and United Railroad Historical Society on June 24 and 25, 2000. I was happy to be able to be a participant on the latter. We doubt if such tours will be allowed in the future.

All too soon the cruise ended at 3 p.m. —how time flies when you are having fun! I departed with the pleasant thought that the *Navesink Queen* could have easily transited the Delaware and Raritan Canal between New Brunswick, Princeton, Trenton, and Bordentown. With a beam of 20 feet and a depth of only 5 feet, she could have easily passed through the 24-foot-wide locks and the near-8-foot depth. When the D&R was in operation, all bridges were of the swing type with no overhead height limit, except for the Pennsylvania Railroad's stone arch bridge at New Brunswick, which after 1903 had a 50-foot fixed clearance. *Navesink Queen's* stacks could have easily passed through. Just imagine what a wonderfully lovely cruise that would have been!

Sandy Hook became the principal landing for a steamboat line from Manhattan in 1870. The Central RR of NJ later became the owner/operator of the Sandy Hook Line and invested in new steamboats. In 1889 the CNJ placed their new steamboats *Monmouth* and *Sandy Hook* in service between Manhattan and Sandy Hook. In 1892, at the request of the US military, the Sandy Hook Line moved its pier from Sandy Hook to Atlantic Highlands. In 1936 the CNJ began "Dinner & Moonlight Sails." In the final years Sandy Hook Line service was provided by CNJ steamboats *S.S. Sandy Hook*, *S.S. Monmouth*, and *S.S. Asbury Park*. In 1941 CNJ ended its Sandy Hook Line service due to World War II. The CNJ sold its Atlantic Highlands pier to the city in 1944. It was later demolished and is now where the Atlantic Highlands marina is located.

The air horns on *Navesink Queen* are just fine for a small yacht. But the *Queen* needs a commanding horn of a bold and beautifully sounding distinctive chime note that everyone would know was her! Liberty Historic Railway hereby makes an offer to Capt. Dan to purchase such a horn for his vessel if he will agree to install and maintain it on the roof of the pilot house. One possibility is the Chrome 3 Trumpet Competition Series Train Horn made by United Pacific and sold by Raney's, but there are others. How about it, Captain?



BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDS LEAGUE AND DIRECTOR

Linda Barth is the proud recipient of the Francis C. Koehler Award. Bergen County Historical Society awarded this honor to Linda for her exemplary work as the League's Executive Director at its annual meeting in June. The award was presented "in appreciation for publicizing and promoting events for historical groups throughout the state, advancing Heritage Tourism, thereby contributing to the preservation of New Jersey history."

The League is very honored to receive this recognition and looks forward to continuing the vital work of amplifying New Jersey history.

Presenting the award are Carol Restivo, past president of BCHS (left) and Beverly Hashimoto, the new president.

In accepting the award for the League, Mrs. Barth (center) noted that she was delighted to accept this award from our friends at the Bergen County Historical Society.





The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey in the Exhibit Hall at History Camp Valley Forge 2023. Eve Morawski, social media chair, represents the League, Photo by Joe Tacynec.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page two)

I write books, and my grandson hates to read books. He only likes to read from his iPad. I don't take it personally. I try to find other ways to keep him interested in history. He loves the movie *Titanic* since it involves the universal fear of disaster and human tragedy. He told me he would not have wanted to be told that he could get on a lifeboat without me. I was flattered but I don't think he would have liked being on the *Titanic*



Winchester Mystery House, San Jose, California

since there was no internet or tablet chargers on board. Alas, we must continue to find ways to spread our message to the younger generation. I think their sensory preference will continue after childhood.

Brian Armstrong

Alcatraz Island

Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia
October 13, 2022

"Back From Battle: The Forgotten Story of Pennsylvania's Camp Discharge and the Weary Civil War Soldiers It Served"

In the final year of the American Civil War, a special Union Army post was constructed just outside Philadelphia to handle a jumble of returning citizen-soldiers.

Many soldiers bore bullet wounds, broken bones, and other scars of combat. Some had lost limbs. Some were laid low by illness. Hundreds arrived half-dead as survivors of wretched prison camps. Others were blessedly unscathed—but all grappled with the fresh, ferocious memories of their time at war.

The post, known as Camp Discharge, did its best to move the young Union veterans on to their next assignment or, more often, back to civilian life. During its brief existence, it sat on a bluff overlooking what is today one of the nation's busiest highways, the Schuylkill Expressway. The post was quickly dismantled, its story forgotten. The authors reclaim that remarkable history and trace the often tumultuous lives of the Pennsylvania volunteer soldiers who passed through Camp Discharge's gates.

Jim Remsen is a journalist and author of several prior books: *The Intermarriage Handbook*, *Visions of Thosgo*, and *Embarassed Freedom*. Since retiring as Religion Editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer, Jim has pursued his keen interest in history, with a focus on underappreciated aspects of our nation's local histories.

Bread Upp is a board member of the Lower Merion Historical Society and a former educator. His upbringing near Camp Discharge stoked a fascination with history and led him to become a Civil War historian, relic hunter and re-enactor representing the 69th Pennsylvania Infantry. Bread is a skilled collector of artifacts from various periods of history, a passion that has taken him to a myriad of locations throughout the United States.

Notes from the President

Welcome to October. The temperatures have cooled, the Baseball playoffs are beginning and the NBA is coming back soon. The post-award edition of our Round Table begins as we seek new adventures in pursuing our mission and

Meeting Notice
Join us at 7:00 PM on Thursday, October 13, at Kato JCC, 2001 Strawberry Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.
The program will also be presented on Zoom for the benefit of those members and people who are unable to attend.
Please join us at 5:15 pm at the Kato JCC, 2001 Strawberry Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003.

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Kevin Hale Publication Awards for 2022

The League Publication Committee has announced the winners of the 2022 Kevin Hale Publications Awards:

Newsletters:

1st Place: Old Baldy Civil War Round Table of Philadelphia

2nd Place: Boonton Historical Society and Museum Newsletter, "Gem Of The Mountains"

3rd Place: Historical Society of Moorestown, "From the Front Porch."

Many thanks to our committee: J.B. Vogt, chair; James Lewis, Kate Malcolm, Brian Armstrong, and Pary Tell. The awards were presented at the June meeting in Flemington.

Gem of the Mountains
The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum
210 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005 • (973) 402-8840 • www.boonton.org • Boontonthistory@Boonton.org
June, 2022

Big Sales In Our Gift Shops!

Christmas in July
Open July 15th, 16th, 17th – Noon to 5:00 PM

Pathways Of History Tour 2022
A beautiful spring day greeted visitors to Morris County's annual Pathways of History Tour of Historic Sites in Boonton and twenty-four other Morris County locations. The Boonton Historical Society hosted the Boonton Museum, the Miller Kingsland House, the Lost Art Lace Makers, and the Canal Society of New Jersey. Many thanks to all our volunteers who worked so hard to make 2022 another successful Pathways event.

Canal Soc of New Jer
The Canal Society Exhibit – Tammie Holloway, Tim Rice, Joe Macanek, and Veronica Jelic

Pathways At The Boonton Museum
Lisa Batchelor-Huelsenbeck, Steven Milkowski, and Tammie Holloway

Pathways At Miller Kingsland House
Lost Art Lace Makers demonstrate their art

IN THIS ISSUE:
New Downtown Percheron Park officially opens (p. 2)
Signature Quilt: Sister Mary & Eliza Hunt (p. 3)
Living History comes alive on Main Street (p. 4)
July 4th and Membership News (p. 6)
Calendar of Events (p. 7)
Acquisitions (p. 7)

FROM THE FRONT PORCH
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MOORESTOWN

View From the Porch

When writing in this space for our September newsletter I wrote that the Historical Society was preparing for what I predicted would be a very exciting fall season. For once a prediction of mine has turned out to be correct. Our 2022-2023 season has, in fact, gotten off to a flying start.

On October 8th, the long awaited Percheron Park opened with a beautiful dedication ceremony followed by a reception at Smith-Cadbury. The park celebrates the contributions of Moorestown's Edward Harris II and his introduction of the Percheron horse breed to the United States. As many know, Harris was born in the Smith-Cadbury Mansion, now the headquarters of the Historical Society. Ann Langerhans, Corresponding Secretary of the Friends of Percheron Park, writing in a letter to the Historical Society summed up the event best saying: "Our hope to turn what was once a former eyesore into a public green space is now satisfied; the park is a meaningful tribute to our town's agrarian heritage, marks the importance of the Percheron horse in the development of New Jersey and America, and honors one of Moorestown's most outstanding past citizens, Edward Harris II."

Next on our calendar was the annual Fall Membership meeting which was held on October 12th at the Moorestown Library. Our featured speaker was Historical Society Vice-President Linda Vizi, who discussed our latest exhibit, of which she is curator, *Inscribed Quilts: A Portal to Moorestown History*. The library meeting room was filled to capacity to hear Linda discuss the exhibit, her research, and some of her favorite stories that her research uncovered about the signers of five quilts. The feedback was so positive, that for the first time, the Library asked for her to do a second talk, which she did on November 22nd.

House Tour and Gift Shop Hours:
2nd & 4th Sunday 1-3 PM
Tuesdays 1-3 PM

Research Library Hours:
Tuesday 1-4 PM
Second Sunday of each Month 1-3 PM

Address:
Historical Society of Moorestown
Smith-Cadbury Mansion
12 High St.
P.O. Box 477
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Phone:
856-235-0353

Web Site:
moorestownhistory.org

Email:
moorestownhistory@comcast.net

Facebook:
[facebook.com/historical.society.of.moorestown](https://www.facebook.com/historical.society.of.moorestown)

Instagram:
www.instagram.com/moorestownhistory/

Published by The Historical Society of Moorestown
December 2022

Lenny Wagner, President
(Lwagner559@comcast.net)

New Coordinator for the CAPES Program

Laura Melbourne has been appointed to a two-year position as CAPES (Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service) coordinator, effective July 1, 2023. CAPES offers free professional assessments by consultants from the New Jersey Caucus of historical paper collections held by New Jersey archives, libraries, historical societies, agencies, and other non-profit organizations free of charge. As coordinator, Laura will oversee the grant from New Jersey Historical Commission, help guide consultants, and will continue to grow the CAPES program. Laura is an archival consultant for the War Resisters League (at Swarthmore College Peace Collection) and is currently reprocessing the CAPES archive. We wish her luck in her new role as coordinator. We would also like to thank Janette Pardo for her tenure!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Fay Austin
Bruce Blondina
Daniel Fiore
Historical Society of Hammonton
Nancy B. Kennedy
John Kieser, Forgotten Victory Trail
Association
Navy Lakehurst Historical Society
Denise Lima

Gretchen Longo
Rachel Mauldin
Cynthia Ostergaard
Daneris Santiago
Historical Society of Stillwater
Meg Sullivan
Tuckerton Historical Society
Bernice Proctor Venable
Matthew Wolchko

JOB MARKETPLACE



Employers:
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listings



Job Seekers:
Review postings
OR
Post resume

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THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY



Check out the Job Marketplace on our website! You'll find this great new program under the Newsletters and Resources section.

Members can post job opportunities **free of charge!** Job seekers can also post their resumes.

We are working with New Jersey colleges and universities to spread the word about our latest initiative, so be sure to post today!

OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Dear League Members,

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

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

This process was used by Mathew Brady to capture the Civil War and is the most archival photographic process that exists today.

Daniel Leocadi is a New Jersey based wet plate collodion photographer creating beautiful tintype and glass portraits using the same process from the 1850s.

By *D. Leocadi*

THECOLLODION
COLLECTIVE

FREE WORKSHOPS



League Workshops for Members

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

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

The following workshops are available:

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

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

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



THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Newsletter Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 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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Garbage in the Garden State Jordan P. Howell



Garbage in the Garden State is the only book to examine the history of waste management in New Jersey. The state has played a pioneering role in the overall trajectory of waste management in the US. Howell's book is unique in the way that it places the contemporary challenges of waste management into their proper historical context—for instance, why does the system for recycling seem to work so poorly? Why do we have so many landfills in New Jersey but also simultaneously not enough landfills or incinerators?

Howell acknowledges that New Jersey is sometimes imagined, particularly by non-New Jerseyans, as a giant garbage dump for New York and Philadelphia. But every place has had to struggle with the challenges of waste management. New Jersey's trash history is in fact more interesting and more important than most. New Jersey's waste history includes intensive planning, deep-seated political conflict, organized crime, and literally every level of state and federal judiciary. It is a colorful history, to say the least, and one that includes a number of firsts with regard to recycling, comprehensive

planning, and the challenging economics of trash.

From Rutgers University Press. Available through Amazon or from your independent bookstore.

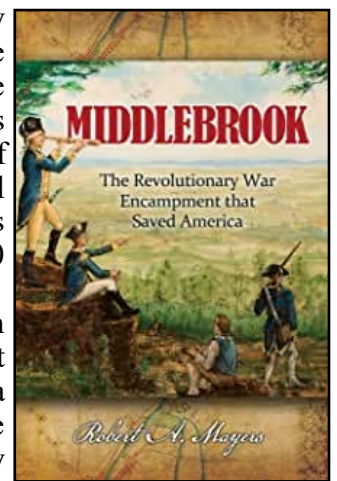
In the January issue we included Maxine Lurie's **Taking Sides in Revolutionary New Jersey: Caught in the Crossfire**, as a prelude to the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding. In the next April issue we featured **Unhappy Catastrophes: The American Revolution in Central New Jersey, 1776-1782** and **George Washington's Revenge**. Below we introduce you to two more books on the Rev War in Central New Jersey.

Middlebrook: The Revolutionary War Encampment That Saved America By Robert A. Mayers

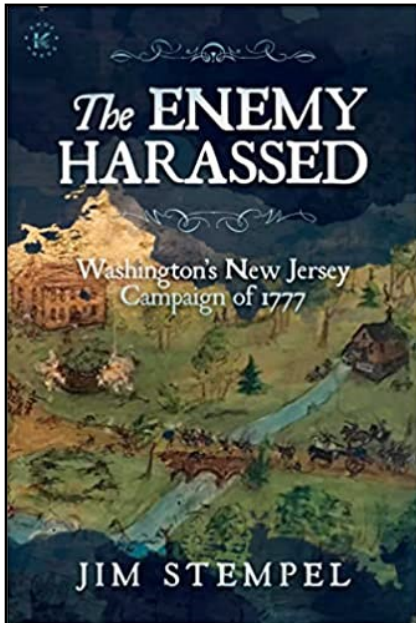
The Revolutionary War encampments of George Washington's Continental Army at Middlebrook and nearby Pluckemin, New Jersey, have been neglected in history. These places were critical to the American struggle during the Middle Atlantic campaigns. The natural fortress of the Watchung Mountains was the location of two major encampments of Washington's Continental Army—a harrowing seven weeks during the early summer of 1777, and during the entire winter of 1778-1779. What is astonishing is that the Continental Army spent close to nine months here, yet this hub of the American Revolution has languished in obscurity and virtually disappeared from national awareness for over 200 years.

These campgrounds served as the center of operations for American forces through much of the war and during many of its darkest hours. Most significant is that it was at Middlebrook, during the winter of 1778-1779, that the raw Continental Army matured into a cohesive fighting power capable of defeating the British forces, who were regarded at the time as the best trained and equipped army in the world. Unlike Valley Forge and Jockey Hollow, which have been so eulogized that they are familiar to most school children, this sacred land, where decisive events occurred that changed the course of the war, is now built over by suburban creep, rarely marked, shrouded in mystery and mythology, and fading from the collective American memory.

Find out what really happened in Middlebrook!



The Enemy Harassed: Washington's New Jersey Campaign of 1777 By Jim Stempel



As few books regarding American history have achieved, Jim Stempel's *The Enemy Harassed* brings a previously neglected period of the American Revolution to life.

In late December 1776, the American War of Independence appeared to be on its last legs. General George Washington's continental forces had been reduced to a shadow of their former strength, the British Army had chased them across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, and enlistments for many of the rank and file would be up by month's end. Desperate times call for desperate measures, however, and George Washington responded to this crisis with astonishing audacity. On Christmas night 1776, he recrossed the Delaware as a nor'easter churned up the coast, burying his small detachment under howling sheets of snow and ice. Undaunted, they attacked a Hessian brigade at Trenton, New Jersey, taking the German auxiliaries by complete surprise. Then, only three days later, Washington struck again, crossing the Delaware, slipping away from the British at Trenton, and attacking the Redcoats at Princeton—to their utter astonishment.

The British, now back on their heels, retreated toward New Brunswick as Washington's reinvigorated force headed north to Morristown. Over the next eight months, Washington's continentals and the state militias of New Jersey would go head-to-head with the British in a multitude of small-scale actions and large-scale

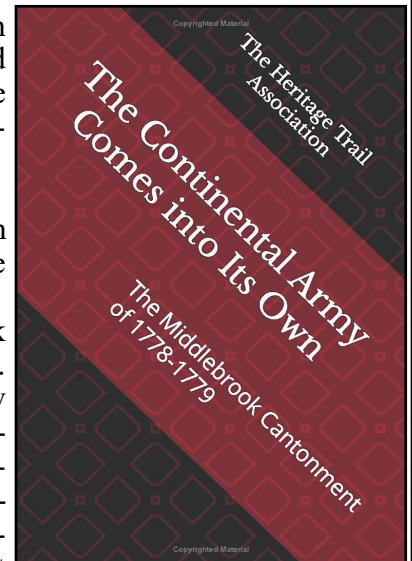
battles, eventually forcing the British to flee New Jersey by sea. In this captivating narrative of the American War of Independence, author Jim Stempel brings to life one of the most violent, courageous, yet virtually forgotten periods of the Revolutionary War. Sure to enthrall professional historians and book lovers of all stripes, *The Enemy Harassed* is scholarly history presented in an accessible style anyone can enjoy.

The Continental Army Comes into Its Own: The Middlebrook Cantonment of 1778-1779 by The Heritage Trail Association (Margaret W Sullivan, Lead Editor); Linda J. Barth, Co-Editor; Sean Blinn, Co-Editor)

During the winter of 1778-1779, the third major cantonment of the American Revolution in the northeastern colonies took place in the vicinity of a place called Middlebrook, New Jersey. Middlebrook does not appear on modern maps and the majority of Americans have never heard of it. Many historians accord it only passing mention in their narratives of the war for American independence, as though nothing significant took place there.

The Heritage Trail Association of New Jersey's 240th-anniversary symposium about the Middlebrook Cantonment sought to increase recognition of the scope and significance of this overlooked winter in America's fight for liberty.

Archaeologists and historians weighed in on the impact of the Middlebrook winter on the development of the American army and the continuing war effort. The papers in this volume bring together updated and original scholarship for new perspectives on the Middlebrook Cantonment. They discuss its strategic significance, unique features, and the state of current archeological findings and preservation efforts. Collectively, they tell the story of the Continental Army's successful transition that winter from the fledgling rebel force at Valley Forge to a disciplined, better-trained American force able to withstand the more difficult winter at Morristown ahead and one capable of attaining eventual victory.



Four more symposia on Middlebrook are planned for the years leading up to the nation's 250th anniversary. See page 18 to learn how to register for the October 28th event.

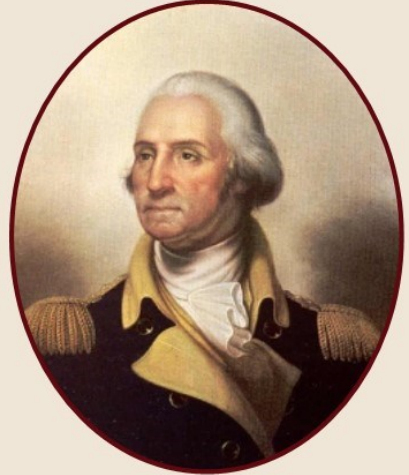
SAVE THE DATE

Symposium: Washington's Middlebrook Encampments of the Revolutionary War

Saturday, October 28, 2023

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Raritan Valley Community College
Conference Center, RVCC Drive
North Branch, NJ



CALLING ALL HISTORIANS AND HISTORY BUFFS!

Speakers & Presentations:

- Middlebrook 101: "George Washington Remembers Middlebrook"
- Jim Stempel
 - Author of *The Enemy Harassed: Washington's New Jersey Campaign of 1777*
- Arthur Lefkowitz
 - Author of *George Washington's Revenge*
- Robert Mayers
 - Author of *Middlebrook: The Revolutionary Encampment That Saved America*
- Dominick Mazzagetti
 - Author of *Charles Lee: Self Before Country*
- Roger Williams
 - Moderator, Authors Roundtable



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\$35 per person | \$20 with valid student ID | Lunch will be provided | Seating is limited; please register early!

Register and Learn More at <http://www.htanj.org>

Questions? (908) 240-0488

E-mail: barthlinda123@aol.com

Funded in part with support from the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution.



**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2023 Fall Meeting
Hosted by Sparta Historical Society/Van Kirk Homestead Museum at the
Sparta Middle School, 350 Main Street, Sparta NJ 07871
Saturday, November 4, 2023**

AGENDA

9:00 am	Registration, coffee, continental breakfast, info tables
9:30 am	Welcome by MaryAnne Francisco, president of the Sparta Historical and Sparta Mayor Daniel Chiariello
9:45 am	Welcome by Brian Armstrong, president, League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, followed by the League business meeting
10:15 am	Sparta Historical celebrates its 21 st Anniversary: Getting to Know Us Have you had similar experiences?
10:45 am	Break
11:00 am	Bill Truran, Sussex County historian; MaryAnne Francisco, Sparta Historical president; and Bill Kroth, CEO, Sterling Hill Mines present “Sussex County and Its Geology: How it Affected our Early History, Our Middle History with Thomas Edison, and more Current News”
Noon	Lunch
1:00 pm	Tour of Van Kirk Homestead Museum
2:00 pm	End of program
2:00 pm	Option 1 – Walking tour of Lake Mohawk, which is on State Historical Registry Option 2 – Drive to Sterling Hill Mining Museum for a special preregistered 2:15 pm tour for additional cost of \$14 per person; see below for registering for the mine tour

Local Accommodations: Homewood Suites, 2 Commerce Center Drive, Dover, NJ 07801; 973-989-8899
Holiday Inn Express, 8 N. Park Drive, Newton, NJ 07860; 973-940-8888
Hilton Garden Inn, 375 Mt Hope Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07868; 973-328-0600
Fairfield Inn & Suites, 14 Green Pond Road, Rockaway, NJ 07866; 973 554 4090

For questions before November 4, call 973-726-0883. For questions on November 4, 973-818-9950.

To register for the meeting, complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$30, payable to the Sparta Historical Society. If you plan to visit the mining museum, please include a separate check for \$14 each, payable to the Sterling Hill Mining Museum. Please mail your registration (and museum tour check) by October 28 to the Sparta Historical Society, P. O. Box 312, Sparta, NJ 07871, ATTN: Gail Miner

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

League of Historical Societies of NJ Fall Meeting at Sparta, NJ
Sparta Historical Society/Van Kirk Homestead Museum at the
Sparta Middle School, 350 Main Street, Sparta NJ 07871
Saturday, November 4, 2023

From East and North

Route I-280 West to Rt 80 West.

Route I-80 West to exit 34B, Rt.15 North, Jefferson, Sparta.

Route 15 North to Route 517 Sparta, Franklin exit.

Right at end of ramp on to Route 517 North/Main Street.

Approximately 1 mile on the left is Sparta Middle School, turn left into driveway.

Park on the left side and use the left side entrance.

From South and West

The following routes intersect with Route I-287 North, the Garden State Parkway, Routes 78, 24, 202, and 206 at different points.

Route I-287 North to exit 41B, Route I-80 West.

Route I-80 West to exit 34B, Rt.15 North, Jefferson, Sparta.

Route 15 North to Route 517 Sparta, Franklin exit.

Right at end of ramp on to Rt 517 North/Main Street.

Approximately 1 mile on the left is Sparta Middle School, turn left into driveway.

Park on the left side and use the left side entrance.



Above: Sparta Middle School.
Right: Van Kirk Museum

