



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

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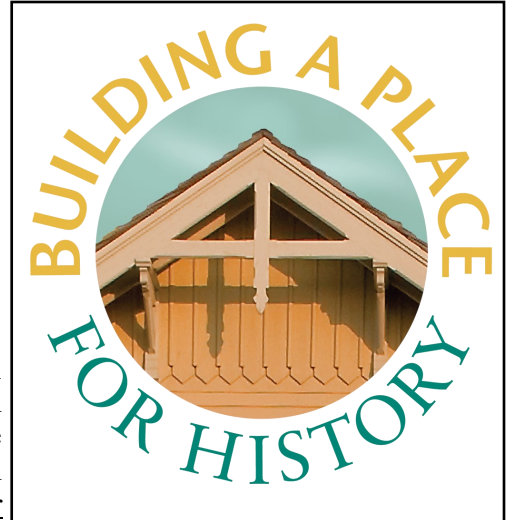
Saturday, November 6 Fall Meeting

Paterson Museum and the Paterson
Museum Foundation, Paterson,
Passaic County

**Registration and directions
in the fall issue**

Welcome to the 2021 History and Historic Preservation Conference

**It's going to be an exciting
three-day virtual event**



The NJ History and Historic Preservation conference is the annual statewide educational opportunity for history and historic preservation professionals and volunteers in the fields of architecture, planning, heritage site and museum management, public history, archaeology, municipal preservation commissions, county heritage offices, developers, students, and more. This year will focus on three crucial themes: Advocacy and Preservation, Underrepresented Histories, and Climate Change and Sustainability.

Entertainment for each day will be provided by the Rutgers University Voorhees Choir.

Day One – Thursday, June 3: Advocacy and Preservation

Welcoming remarks by Lt. Governor Sheila Oliver

Keynote speaker Paul Edmondson, President and CEO of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
Plus three sessions

Day Two – Thursday, June 10: Underrepresented Histories

Keynote panelists Melanie Adams, Director of the Anacostia Community Museum and Andrea Roberts, Assistant Professor of Urban Planning and an Associate Director of the Center for Housing & Urban Development at Texas A&M University
Plus three sessions

(continued on page 9)

SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

November 6, 2021—Paterson Museum and the Paterson Museum Foundation, Paterson, Passaic County
Winter 2022—Camden County Historical Society/Camden County History Alliance, Camden County
June 2022—South River Historical & Preservation Society, South River, Middlesex County
Fall 2022 — Sparta Historical Society, Sparta, Sussex 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

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

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

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Publications Awards Committee

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J. B. Vogt

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Bernard Bush and Dorothy Pietrowski

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The New Jersey history community continues to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The New Jersey Historical Commission will sponsor a number of zoom meetings to introduce the framework for the NJ plan for the commemoration of American Revolution. Separate sessions are planned for 12:30 for the North (May 10), Central (May 12), and South (May 14). Marc Lorenc is the program coordinator at the NJHC. You can contact him for more details. Marc.Lorenc@sos.nj.gov

NJ Crossroads of the American Revolution is rolling out an exciting new App designed to interconnect the many sites in NJ involved in the American Revolution. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCbPPTb0clQ>

The NJ Association of Museums is holding its annual meeting on June 14. https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO7p6mUOISUh23fwMh0okxieB3uwO8S5s_wx9tOIJx-44l0g/viewform

The New Jersey Historic Trust will hold its virtual conference on June 3, 10 and 17. <https://www.njpreservationconference.org/registration/>

Artpride of NJ will hold its biennial Thrive Conference on June 15 and 22. Although designed for the non-profit arts community, you will find many topics of interest to historical organizations. <https://artpridenj.org/thrive>

The NJ Theatre alliance is offering an important zoom conference titled Creating Change on April 22 and 23. This two-day virtual gathering is built around reflecting, healing, and learning as we work toward a more equitable, just, and anti-racist arts and cultural sector. <https://njtheatrealliance.org/creating-change-2021>

Be sure to sign up for the NJ Historic Commission Newsletter at <https://nj.gov/state/historical/his-index.shtml>.

The NJ Cultural Response Alliance will hold its annual meeting on May 6. www.eventbrite.com/e/todays-monuments-men-and-women-tickets-146846222003

As the number of people vaccinated grows, we can begin to anticipate a reopening of our historic sites and institutions.

DEADLINE: Submissions for the August issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than July 15, 2021. 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.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Belmar Historical Society

Incorporated on May 16, 2011, the Belmar Historical Society is an all-volunteer organization consisting of approximately 30 active volunteers and a growing number of members. We have four officers, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, along with nine trustees.

The Belmar Historical Society's history museum was originally scheduled to open in November, 2012. Super Storm Sandy hit the Jersey Shore four days before the grand opening. Due to flooding in the building, the opening was delayed while volunteers worked to preserve the many treasures stored on-site. It is with gratitude that the BHS thanks the Monmouth County Archives in Manalapan for safekeeping the bulk of memorabilia and historical treasures and extends special thanks to the Borough of Belmar for its support, to the Monmouth County Historical Commission, and to the New Jersey Historical Commission for their support.



It is with sincere pride that in April, 2015 the BHS opened Belmar's first history museum at 900 E Street, Belmar, in the Annex of the Union Fire House. Visitors are welcome to come view the many materials and displays that preserve and share Belmar's proud history. The BHS also maintains a display case at Borough Hall, 6th Avenue entrance, where rotating exhibits are displayed.

In addition, thanks for support must be extended to Belmar citizens as well as county and state organizations. The Monmouth Historical Commission matching grant program, as well as Belmar citizen support in the purchase of pavers, enabled the restoration of the WWI Doughboy statue and weaponry at Doughboy Park, the WWII Monument on Main Street, and the Malta Mast base at 8th and Ocean Avenues. Repairs to the exterior of the Union Fire House on 9th and E Street were made possible by matching grants from the Monmouth Historical Commission, with assistance from

the Borough of Belmar Department of Public Works. The purchase of archival supplies was made possible by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

The Museum and History room had to shut its doors during the Covid-19 pandemic like everyone else. During this time, the BHS produced 21 videos entitled "Spotlight on Belmar History," which can be viewed through our website www.belmarhistoricalsociety.org, on our Facebook page, and on YouTube. These short videos highlight the early development of the town and are full of interesting stories. The BHS also co-hosted a virtual program with the Bradley Beach Historical Society entitled "Louisa May Alcott Wants You to Vote" in October of last year.

Our Museum and History room reopened to the public last October, observing all Covid-19 safety protocols. We look forward to the day when we can resume programs open to the public and have more interactive events.

Currently, we are busy planning for Belmar's Sesquicentennial celebration next year in 2022 and are putting together some ideas to commemorate this exciting event.

(The Spotlight column is continued on the next page.)



SANBORN'S PAVILION, BELMAR, N. J.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Lambertville Historical Society

Lambertville Historical Society

www.lambertvillehistoricalsociety.org

History is always front and center in Lambertville because of the many Federal and Victorian era homes, commercial buildings and churches, the Delaware & Raritan Feeder Canal (completed in 1834), the Belvidere & Delaware Railroad (opened 1851 in Lambertville), and a legacy of notable Revolutionary War activities. Over two centuries, residents have proudly documented the evolution of our “river town” through published books and presentations, paintings, and photographs. In 1964 the Lambertville Historical Society (LHS) formally organized to preserve and operate the James Wilson Marshall House (right), built in 1816 and the childhood home of the man who discovered gold in California in 1848.

LHS’s mission is to promote the appreciation of local history and architecture. During the pandemic, we committed to fulfill our mission virtually and have conducted a variety of tours and programs online. Narrated “walking tours,” featuring old and contemporary photos and maps, draw more than 100 attendees per Zoom meeting.

We held our 38th Annual Lambertville House Tour as a webinar. Using local talent, we produced nine video tours of historic properties that showcased colonial kitchens, Victorian parlors, creative salvage, antiques galore, and stunning aerial cinematography. The webinar also included four expert presentations on local architecture and interior design. Many of the videos can still be enjoyed on our website.



The Strand Theatre, 1915
From the Collections of the Hunterdon County Historical Society

Finkles' Warehouse, December 2020
Photo: Richard Freedman

Last fall, LHS partnered with the City of Lambertville and the Chamber of Commerce for “Lambertville Then and Now,” a self-guided walking tour and outdoor exhibit of 20 poster-sized images, dating from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s, stationed at their original sites (left). Through QR codes, tour participants accessed additional information about the sites online. This exhibit is now on our website.

Other virtual programs included: an interactive presentation on Lambertville’s Music Circus, the tented musical theater and concert venue created and run by St. John Terrell from 1949-1970; a tour of Lambertville’s First Presbyterian Church; the launch of an online gallery of vintage postcards; and a guest presentation on Henry Chapman Mercer.

To maintain our strong sense of community and to support our artists, LHS recently curated and posted videos of local painters, who had previously participated in our Plein Air fundraisers, discussing their inspiration and work. We held several music concerts online, including a Holiday Music concert, that featured original and traditional songs by our talented, quirky neighbors. Videos can be enjoyed on our YouTube channel.

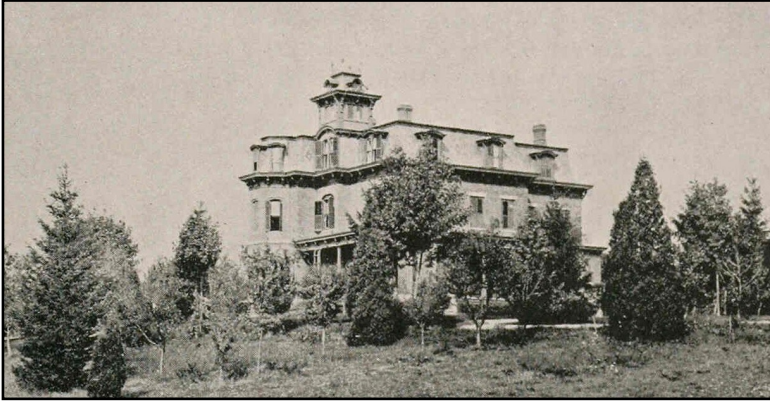
Supported by an historic preservation grant from Hunterdon County, we are currently restoring the two-story city jail (circa 1840), a central landmark in picturesque Mary Sheridan Park. The building has been closed since the late 1960s and had deteriorated significantly. When restored, the jail will be a flexible space that can accommodate historical and cultural activities.

LHS looks forward to eventually reopening the James Wilson Marshall House Museum when it is safe, and we plan to do so with a bang. We will conduct an exhibit of more than 50 photographs taken by John A. Anderson between 1890-1915. In remarkably high resolution, the photographs consist of portraits, local city views and landscapes, travel images, and botany. Visitors will delight in Anderson’s art and visions of Lambertville during its industrial heyday. We hope to see you soon!

July 2nd 2021 Marks the 100th Anniversary of the Signing of the Resolution that Ended the U.S. Involvement in World War I

by Bruce Doorly
Photos courtesy of the author

This July 2nd will mark the 100th Anniversary of the signing of the resolution to formally end the U.S. involvement in World War I. That joint resolution passed by Congress was signed in Raritan by President Warren Harding at the home of U.S. Senator Joseph Frelinghuysen. His house (left) was located where the PC Richard store is now, just off the Somerville Circle. That home, known as The Hill during the years that it was occupied and in later years as The Old Mansion, is long gone.



The fighting in World War I had ended two years before. But the U.S. had a problem with the Treaty of Versailles that the other countries had signed at the end of the war. One main difference was the fact that the U.S. was not joining the newly formed League of Nations, which grew out of the agreement that ended the war. The President called

on Congress to pass a peace resolution independent of the League of Nations. Congress then debated for quite some time. Finally, on July 1, 1921, both houses of Congress came up with a resolution that was acceptable.

In July 1921, President Warren Harding had scheduled an extended weekend visit with his friend Joseph Frelinghuysen in Raritan. The President was looking forward to a few quiet days with only a minimal number of official duties. The two men had served together in the U.S. Senate before Harding was elected President in November of 1920. The visit by Harding had been well publicized in advance. The front page of The New York Times told of his impending arrival in Raritan. Harding arrived by train at the Bound Brook Train Station on

Friday Night, July 1st. In his party were his wife, Speaker of the House Frederick Gillett, Senator Frederick Hale of Maine, and Senator Frank Kellogg of Minnesota. They rode by car from Bound Brook through Somerville to Raritan. Crowds lined up along the route to welcome him. The President acknowledged the crowd by waving and smiling.

It was that afternoon that Congress had finished the resolution to officially declare an end to the war. It was named the Knox-Porter resolution after the congressmen who wrote it.

On Saturday, July 2nd a courier was sent from Washington D.C. with the paperwork for the President to sign. The courier arrived in Raritan at the Frelinghuysen Mansion around 2 PM. But the President was not there, as Harding, Frelinghuysen, and the other congressmen were golfing at the Somerset Hills Country Club in Bernardsville. (Some local historical publications today state that President Harding was at the Raritan Valley Country Club. But the New York Times article, which is very detailed in its documentation, says that it was Somerset Hills.)



The President returned from golfing at 3:45 PM and proceeded to read over the documents given to him. Everyone understood the significance of the occasion. An official signing would be held.

Four different cameramen were summoned to take pictures of the event. The signing took place at 4:10 PM in the Frelinghuysen living room. Thirty people witnessed it. They included congressmen and their wives, local officials, Frelinghuysen family members, and assorted servants.

The President sat at a desk with others standing behind him. Those behind him were Senator Frederick Hale of Maine, Senator Joseph Frelinghuysen, (daughter) Emily Frelinghuysen, (daughter) Victoria Frelinghuysen, (wife) Emily Frelinghuysen, (son) Joseph Frelinghuysen Jr. and Mrs. Gillett, Mrs. Kellogg, Senator Frank

Kellogg, Speaker of the House Fredrick Gillett, and the courier who had delivered the paperwork.

The photo of the signing that we know today appeared in the New Jersey newspaper *The Home News*.

When President Harding signed the resolution, he made no profound statement that would go down in history. He simply said "That is all." The courier would soon pack up the signed paperwork and head back to Washington.



After the signing, President Harding and Senator Frelinghuysen went back to play golf again. This time they went across the street to the Raritan Valley Country Club.

The next day the New York Times would have the story of the signing on the front page. The headline stated *HARDING ENDS WAR, SIGNS PEACE DECREE AT SENATOR'S HOME*. The subheading said *Thirty Persons Witness Momentous Act in Frelinghuysen Living-Room at Raritan*. No photo would appear in the New York Times.

The next day, Sunday, July 3rd, President Harding attended church with Senator Frelinghuysen in Raritan at the Third

Reformed Church. Inside, the church was packed to capacity. Outside, over 500 people waited to get a view of the President. A photo of President Harding on the steps of the church was taken. This photo has become part of the history of Raritan.

That day the President and his wife took an automobile tour of the surrounding area. They also visited Raritan Valley Farms. After that Harding relaxed on the porch of the Frelinghuysen home reading newspapers.

On Monday July 4th there was a public reception starting at 3 PM on the lawn of the Frelinghuysen Estate where President Harding met with local people. It was estimated that 1,000 people came from all over to shake hands with the President. Some came on foot, others by automobile or train. A few arrived by way of horse and carriage.

Mr. Harding stood in line with Mrs. Harding and Senator and Mrs. Frelinghuysen as the people in single file passed along and greeted him. A photo of this event survives.

On Tuesday, July 5th, the President headed back to Washington D.C. Since then, no U.S. President has visited Raritan.

The Frelinghuysen Mansion had been built in 1874 and was occupied by the family from the beginning. It had 12 acres of land. Surprisingly, the house was vacated by the Frelinghuysen family in 1927 just six years after the signing. They felt that the traffic on the roads in front of them had become too much, and they sought a quieter location in Far Hills. (The move was well timed as the Somerville Circle would be constructed just a couple of years later.)

For decades after that, the mansion was mostly vacant. For a few years starting in 1934, it was used as a restaurant and later used for a time by the state police. In 1945, Frelinghuysen sold the mansion and property

HARDING ENDS WAR; SIGNS PEACE DECREE AT SENATOR'S HOME

Thirty Persons Witness Momentous Act in Frelinghuysen Living Room at Raritan.

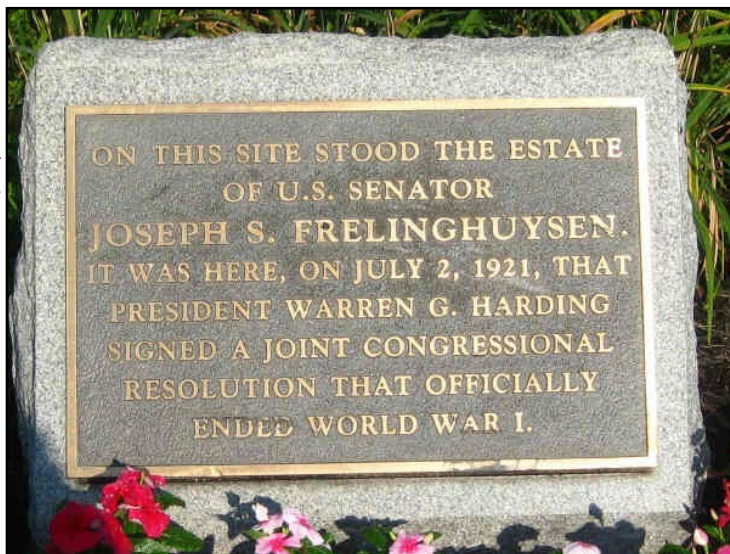
to a charitable foundation, but no use of significance emerged from that.

Finally, in 1957, with the house in a state of disrepair, it was torn down. Coincidentally in the middle of the demolition a suspicious fire finished off the house. Today the stone pillars from the entrance of the Frelinghuysen Estate remain. There is also a plaque (by the pillars) that commemorates the signing. Joseph Frelinghuysen served one term in the U.S. Senate, 1917-1923.

As for President Warren Harding, he did not survive his full term as he passed away after a brief illness in August of 1923.

The desk that the resolution was signed on has been saved by the Frelinghuysen family. Ten years ago, that desk was brought to the Raritan Library for a commemoration to mark the 90th Anniversary of the signing.

To mark the 100th Anniversary of the historic signing, the Raritan Historic & Cultural Committee will hold a special commemorative event at the Raritan Public Library, 54 East Somerset Street, Raritan. **On Saturday, July 10th, the Committee will sponsor Step Into History, a free outdoor event in which you can learn about and be photographed as a witness to the signing. Stop by anytime between noon and 3pm. Starting at 1:00 p.m. you may greet President Harding himself.** This event is planned with current health and safety precautions in mind. Please watch the League's event list for more details.



News from the Lebanon Township Museum



(above) is now part of the Hunterdon Historical Society's collection. Brief biographies on both Dr. English and the painting's artist, Lew E. Davis are shared in the Historical Society's February Collection Gem. Visit <https://hunterdonhistory.org/> and click on "Collection Gem."

The Township of Lebanon Museum is located at 57 Musconetcong River Road in New Hampton in what was formerly the New Hampton School.

The museum is supported by the Township of Lebanon under the guidance of the Township historians.

Phone: 908-638-8523 x405; museum@lebtwp.net

Gina Sampaio, Curator

Robbie-Lynn Mwangi, Associate Curator

Last summer an exciting opportunity was presented to the Lebanon Township Museum to accept artifacts from the former State Sanatorium for Tuberculosis (<https://www.loc.gov/item/nj1598/>) located on Mt. Kipp in Lebanon Township (see photo below). We were thrilled by the opportunity to help preserve this important local history.

Space constraints dictated how many items we could bring back to the museum. Through our friends at the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, we were able to find appropriate homes for those items we could not take, most notably getting some historic medical paraphernalia to the hospital at the Ellis Island Museum. (It was then that we were able to learn more about New Hampton doctor Howard Knox and his work at Ellis Island.)

Other artifacts stayed within Hunterdon County. For example, a portrait of the Sanatorium's first Superintendent, Dr. Samuel Budd English,





New Jersey Scout Museum



New Jersey Scout Museum Building Program Moves Forward

Started in 2004, the New Jersey Scout Museum (NJSM) exists to “preserve artifacts relating to the history of Girl and Boy Scouting in the state of New Jersey and we want to educate the public about Scouting’s role in our communities and our nation in developing young people into responsible citizens and leaders.”

We have great news to share! The NJSM is moving forward with the fundraising and construction of a new 6,400-sq. ft. building. The new museum will be located at the Quail Hill Scout Reservation (QHSR) in Manalapan Township off Route 33, between Freehold and Hightstown on a camp that is owned by the Monmouth Council Boy Scouts of America (MCBSA).

The NJSM opened to the public in June of 2004 with a modest display in 1,000 sq. ft. of loaned space in the MCBSA service center in Morganville, NJ. The NJSM was created by our late founder David A. Wolverton, who sadly passed unexpectedly in June of 2007.



Around 2015 when MCBSA expanded its service territory, they needed to reclaim our museum space for their expanding staff. We moved out of the space we had occupied since early 2004. From that point forward we had no actual museum. We did locate some of our Boy Scout displays at Quail Hill Scout Reservation, Girl Scout Displays at Camp Sacajawea Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore Council and the Westfield Service center of the Heart of New Jersey Council. The remainder of our artifacts and property went into storage.

The NJSM was offered the opportunity by MCBSA to develop a stand-alone museum building at QHSR. This gives us a great opportunity to have a considerable increase in visitors as the camp is heavily used almost every weekend by scouts and many other groups.

The museum is designed as a two-level building with the entrance and display gallery (2½ times larger than our original space) on the upper level. The lower level, which also has grade level access due to the topography, will contain our back-office operations, room to work on building displays, general storage, and our archive storage space.

After many years of planning and hard work, we have finally finished our documents, plans, and pricing. We have just begun to start our



formal public fundraising. **Amazingly, without even starting public fundraising, we have already raised almost \$300,000, about one third of our goal of \$850,000.**

Our hope is that many of you would find this project something you might be interested in helping us with in any manner you choose. In order to bring this project to life, we still need to raise another \$550,000. Yes, it's a big number, but it will come from many sources both small and large.

If you would like more details, I direct you to our web site www.njsm.org. Check out the Donate Tab, "Building Capital Campaign" and the About Us tab under "Newsletters" for more information. In our newsletters the best details start with Vol. 11, number 1 and then to the present. This is a new site for us so bear with us as it develops.

Our goal is to have fundraising complete, the building constructed, and be in our new space by the end of 2022!

Steven Buckley

VP in charge of Building Construction and Fund Raising; sbuckley@monmouth.com

Historic Preservation Conference (continued from page one)

Day Three – Thursday, June 17: Climate Change and Sustainability

Keynote speaker Jeanne Herb, Co-Director and Anthony J. Broccoli, Distinguished Professor, the New Jersey Climate Change Resource Center at Rutgers University

Plus three sessions

Find more information on sessions and speakers by viewing the [Agenda!](#)

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Visit <https://www.njpreservationconference.org/>

What is New Jersey History Day? It's not just a day, it's an experience!

The New Jersey History Day program is an affiliate of National History Day (NHD), an exciting education program that engages students in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Either individually or in a group, students **present their historical research on a topic related to the competition's annual theme** in the form of a performance, exhibit, documentary, website, or paper. These projects are then **evaluated at local, regional, and state competitions that culminate in a national contest every June** at the University of Maryland, College Park.

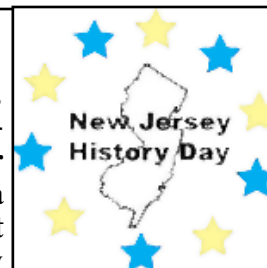
The History Day program is open to **all students in grades 6-12**. All types of students participate in History Day - public, private, parochial, and home school students; urban, suburban and rural students; gifted students and students with special needs.

For more than thirty years the National History Day program has promoted systemic educational reform related to the teaching and learning of history in America's schools. The combination of **creativity and scholarship** built into the NHD program anticipated current educational reforms, making National History Day a leading model of performance-based learning.

National History Day **reinforces classroom teaching by rewarding students of all abilities for their scholarship, individual initiative, and cooperative learning**. A national evaluation of the NHD program found that participants:

- Outperform non-NHD peers on standardized tests
- Are better writers, able to use evidence to support their point of view
- Become critical thinkers who can analyze and evaluate information
- Learn 21st-century college and career ready skills

Nancy Norris-Bauer, William Paterson University, Office of Professional Development and School/Community Partnerships, 300 Pompton Road, Suite V4025, Wayne, NJ 07470; njhistoryday@wpunj.edu



The fight to save Tillie

An Asbury Park icon is withering away in a shed. Will he be a casualty of the city's rebirth?
NJ.com, March 3, 2021 — Copyright NJ Advance Media. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.
<https://www.nj.com/news/2021/03/the-fight-to-save-tillie.html>

By Alex Napoliello, NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

The beloved icon sits in darkness, withering away inside a wooden shed just steps from the bustling beachfront. The paint on his hulking, concrete face is flaking. A chunk of his nose is ready to fall off. The years of salt and wind and neglect have exacted their toll, and spiderwebs hang from the steel frame keeping him intact.

For generations, Tillie—a caricature resembling George C. Tilyou, a 19th-century showman and entrepreneur from Coney Island—watched over the Asbury Park boardwalk. He stood as a sentinel of summer with big blue eyes and a perpetual toothy grin, staring down from the lime-green walls of the long-since razed Palace Amusements building.

But Tillie has been banished behind a wastewater treatment plant for nearly two decades, hidden in a 20-foot tall wooden box. This is where the cherished landmark will spend his 65th birthday, decaying where the smell of sewage and salt air meet.

“At some point—and I think we’re getting near that—it’s not going to be salvageable,” explained Paul Himmelstein, a historical preservationist who inspected the mural in 2005, 2014, and 2016. “It’s not going to be the image people expect it to be anymore.”

Tillie has become a symbol of what Asbury Park once was—a storied summer playground on the Jersey Shore, rich with entertainment in the 1950s and 1960s and the place where Bruce Springsteen got his start, playing nightclubs such as the famed Stone Pony.

Tillie’s absence is also a reminder of what could be lost as the city enjoys a renaissance of high-end restaurants and million-dollar condos after decades of decline.

He stood watch over Asbury Park for decades.

Leslie Worth Thomas painted him on the old Palace Amusements, an indoor arcade that sat at the corner of Cookman Avenue and Kingsley Street, before the summer tourism season of 1956.

To baby boomers, Tillie is synonymous with childhood memories of the hallowed seaside resort. To a younger generation rediscovering Asbury Park as an artistic haven, he has become a rallying cry as developers build up the waterfront.

Kyle Sherman, an avid surfer who grew up in neighboring Ocean Township, feels so strongly about this, he had Tillie tattooed on his back with the phrase, “Defend The Shore,” inked underneath.

To the 36-year-old native, Tillie represents “the area I grew up in and love. It’s the symbol of Asbury Park for people that grew up in the area before the resurgence of the town,” he said. “I got it when Asbury was still in its infancy of its rebirth. It was really a local surfing tattoo. There has always been a clash of locals and bennies.”

Tillie once watched as young lovers galloped to the attractions such as the casino and the carousel house. He looked on as families basked in the sun by day and relished the glow of the city’s neon lights by night.

And then he witnessed Asbury Park’s deterioration as urban decay set in.

The roots of its decline began with the expansion of the Garden State Parkway in the late 1950s, which made more areas along the Shore accessible. The city also lost its allure as a major shopping destination with the rise of malls. Then came the unrest in 1970, which left some parts of the city badly damaged. Soon, Asbury Park was rife with crime and political corruption.

The City by the Sea became a shell of its former self, with shuttered businesses and abandoned buildings throughout.



The Palace Amusement building at the corner of Cookman Avenue and Kingsley Street. Courtesy of Preservation New Jersey

(continued on the next page)

“A lot of things happened simultaneously that led to Asbury Park’s dark days,” explained Eileen Chapman, a councilperson who moved to the city in 1974. “I remember coming here with my parents to go to the boardwalk, and the one thing I remember is the Tillie and the Ferris wheel coming through the roof of that (Palace Amusements) building. That’s my takeaway memory of visiting Asbury Park as a child.

“You can go to any other boardwalk, and you don’t leave with that same sense that you’ve just seen this iconic landmark,” she continued.

The Palace closed in 1988. It sat vacant until June 11, 2004, when the building was razed to make room for new construction. The area is now occupied by a parking lot and a fitness studio.

Realizing Tillie’s historical importance, a group called Save Tillie pleaded to preserve him. The developers who took over the property agreed to keep a cutout of the concrete mural—along with dozens of other pieces—and promised a new home for Tillie.

“It was basically a compromise,” said Bob Crane, the president of Save Tillie.

While the original Tillie mural was swept away to its new storage unit behind the city’s wastewater treatment plant, a new Tillie quickly emerged atop the Wonder Bar on Ocean Avenue.

And the people of Asbury Park have automaker Chevrolet to thank.

In search of a location with a 1950s feel for a print advertisement celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Corvette, the car manufacturer scouted the Palace building. It then hired the rock group the Goo Goo Dolls as models. But by the time of the shoot in 2004, the iconic Jersey Shore location was a pile of rubble, and the team had to scramble for a new backdrop.

The location manager for the shoot knew Lance Larson, a well-known musician in Asbury Park who co-owned the Wonder Bar. Larson allowed the shoot to happen in front of his business and agreed to let the team paint the exterior to match the façade of the Palace building, said Debbie DeLisa, a former co-owner who now manages the bar.

With a paint crew working around the clock, the Wonder Bar was transformed in two days. Meanwhile, the team contracted local artist Leslie Steigelman to paint the new Tillie mural.

“People were clapping. They were walking by like, ‘Yes!’” Steigelman said. “They were so excited to see Tillie back up.”

But the original Tillie remains locked in a shed. The fate of the old mural is complex and in the hands of developers. Beachfront developer Madison Marquette maintains the mural in storage—and is responsible for relocating it, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection, which approved a master redevelopment plan of the Asbury Park beachfront in 2004.

The permit says the Tillie mural “will be incorporated into a new hotel development or retail development at this location as part of the lobby wall.”

That space, however, is now mainly a parking lot owned by a different developer, iStar—further complicating the matter. The DEP said in a statement that the mural could be incorporated in different development projects if plans change.

Madison Marquette allowed NJ Advance Media to see the old Tillie mural, but did not comment on its future. A representative for iStar, Brian Cheripka, said Tillie’s fate is in the hands of Madison Marquette. The Save Tillie group paid Himmelstein to do independent inspections—the first of which was funded by donations from a Springsteen benefit show. Himmelstein’s last inspection report in 2016 noted the mural had lost “significant” paint from its surface.

The question remains: Why has this revered artifact been sitting in

storage for 17 years?

Chapman, the city council member, said it’s important to honor the original compromise to display Tillie in the city.

“There are some folks that are still waiting for that to happen,” she said. “It was a commitment. I think any commitment is important.”



Tillie. Courtesy Etsy.com

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“Organization Essentials” Workshop

BOOK A WORKSHOP FOR YOUR GROUP AND THOSE IN YOUR AREA. LEARN THE BASICS NEEDED FOR BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ORGANIZATION.

Agenda:

9:30 Registration and continental breakfast

10:00—12:00 ***Your Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Developing Your Long Range Plan*** Your mission statement is the heart of your organization. Is it clear and concise? Do your Board and your members know exactly what you are all about? What does the future hold for your organization? Does your mission statement attract interested donors? Do you know where you are headed? This workshop will cover these basic documents that are critical for the success of any organization and are an important part of any grant application.

12:00—1:00 Buffet lunch (included in registration)

1:00—3:00 ***The Budget and Financial Reports*** Are you applying for or considering applying for grants? Do you want to attract large supporters? It's not enough to say how much you want; you have to say why you want it. And your financial information must be in “good order.” This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget and required financial reports as well as the various financial forms required for grants or support requests. To stay on firm footing, you need an annual budget developed by your Financial Committee and approved by your Board. How do you plan for income and expenses? What are the state and federal filing requirements? What do you need to do to attract donors, supporters and grant funding? This workshop will cover getting your financial house in good order.

Who should attend: Board Members, Directors, Grant Writers

Workshop presenter Pary Tell is the retired head of the Division of Culture & Heritage for Cape May County where she oversaw their arts and history grants program, conducts workshops for local non-profit cultural organizations, and offers assistance to arts and history organizations in organization fundamentals. The workshops are designed especially for smaller organizations that are striving to address their concerns on organization stability and growth. The workshops are small and informal with plenty of time for questions and group interaction.

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Registration

Registration fee is \$25 per person. Please make check payable to LHSNJ and mail to LHSNJ, c/o Pary Tell, 397 Corson Lane, Cape May NJ 08204.

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If you are registering more than one person from your organization, please fill out a registration form for each person.

Any questions, please email parytell@gmail.com or call 609.886-8577

Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Newsletter Awards

The Hale Newsletter Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2021. **Five copies** of only one issue of the newsletter should be submitted for consideration. These copies are due no later than February 15, 2022. They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone message 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 and should state the frequency of publication and whether or not the newsletter is available online.

NEWSLETTERS

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?

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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."

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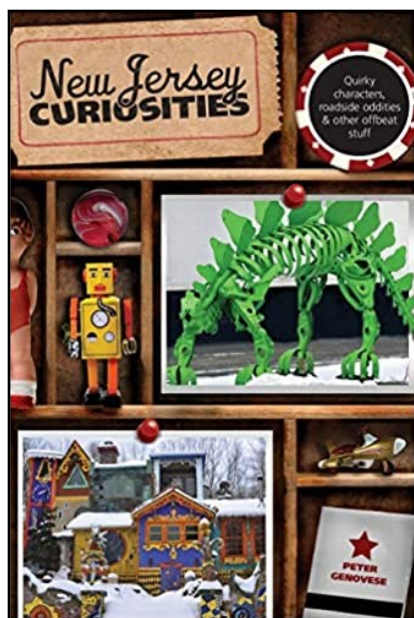
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NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF



New Jersey Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff By Peter Genovese

New Jersey Curiosities: Quirky Characters, Roadside Oddities & Other Offbeat Stuff is the definitive collection of New Jersey's odd, wacky, and most offbeat people, places, and things, for New Jersey residents and anyone else who enjoys local humor and trivia with a twist.

New Jersey Curiosities is full of the quirky characters, roadside oddities, and offbeat stuff that make the Garden State a fun, endlessly fascinating place. A telephone pole farm, the world's biggest Kodiak bear, the country's only prison restaurant, the shortest commuter rail line in the U.S.—these are just a few of the wonders in this book by Peter Genovese, who has spent decades driving around New Jersey in search of stories.

A native of Trenton, he is currently a food/features writer for www.NJ.com and the *Star-Ledger*.

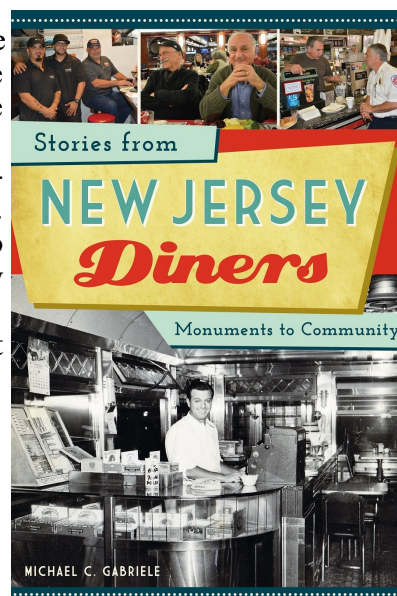
Stories from New Jersey Diners—Monuments to Community By Michael C. Gabriele

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.

The stories form a composite of the state's diner culture, remembrances that have shaped lives, families, careers, and communities—the untold stories of New Jersey's history. The narrative is a tapestry of “everyday” life for “ordinary” people, where every day is meaningful and every person is significant with a heartfelt story to share.

Here in the Garden State, “diners are more than just a place to eat, and food is only half the meal.” Author Michael C. Gabriele documents colorful stories from the Diner Capital of the World. This book is a follow-up to Michael's popular *A History of Diners in New Jersey*.



Changing Tides: Rediscovering Woodbridge, New Jersey 1665-1702 By Donald J. Peck

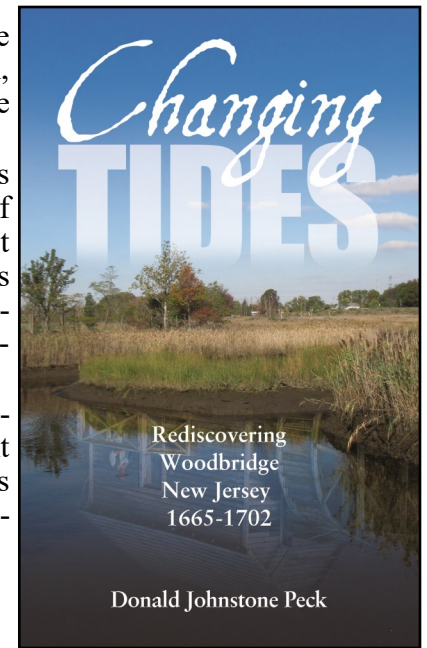
Changing Tides—Rediscovering Woodbridge, New Jersey 1665-1702 is an informative summary of the founding years of the oldest chartered township in New Jersey. Explored by Dutch merchants and the southern most extension of Puritan New England, it was for centuries home to peaceful native Americans.

In tidewater old Woodbridge, New England and Long Island families were drawn to a new frontier with an opportunity to experience freedom of religion, extensive participation in self-government, broad economic opportunity, and the rudiments of education.

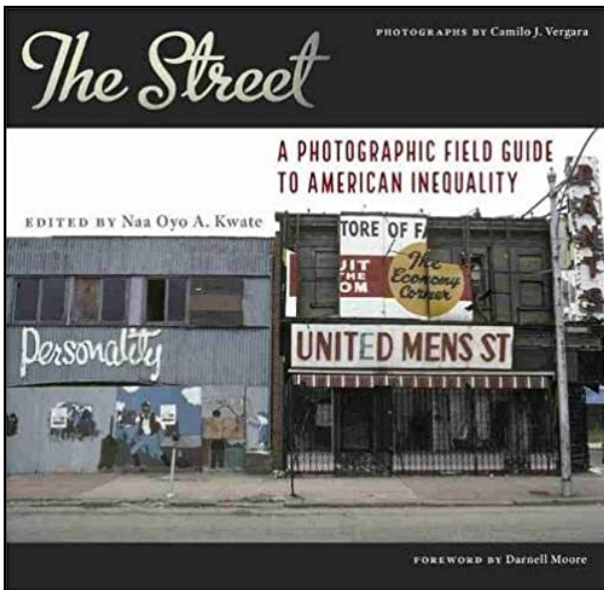
From New Jersey's settlement as a proprietary partnership colony and later as a proprietary corporate colony administered primarily by Scots, the Township of Woodbridge included early courts, legislative assemblies, and the first tidal grist mill and tavern in New Jersey. From 1665 to 1702 it operated as a theocracy. Its distinguished founding families included Jonathan Dunham, the eighth great-grandfather of United States President Barack Obama and the first of his ancestors to be born in North America.

A history of the town of Woodbridge, New Jersey between the years 1665-1702, the book includes early Native American inhabitants, colonial settlement by English Puritans, cultural aspects of life in the town and its residents (Quakers, taverns, schools, suspected witches, and Separatists), and the Twenty-Four Proprietors of East New Jersey and their effect on the town.

Due out in May, the book can be ordered from the publisher's website, www.Americanhistorypress.com, or by simply calling David Kane at 540- 487-1202.



The Street: A Photographic Field Guide to American Inequality **Edited by Naaoyo A. Kwate; Photographer Camilo Jose Vergara**



Vacant lots. Historic buildings overgrown with weeds. Walls and alleyways covered with graffiti. These are sights associated with countless inner-city neighborhoods in America, and yet many viewers have trouble getting beyond the surface of such images, whether they are denigrating them as signs of a dangerous ghetto or romanticizing them as traits of a beautiful ruined landscape. *The Street: A Field Guide to Inequality* provides readers with the critical tools they need to go beyond such superficial interpretations of urban decay.

Using MacArthur fellow Camilo José Vergara's intimate street photographs of Camden, New Jersey as reference points, the essays in this collection analyze these images within the context of troubled histories and misguided policies that have exacerbated racial and economic inequalities. Rather than blaming Camden's residents for the blighted urban landscape, the multi-disciplinary array of scholars contributing to this guide reveal the oppressive structures and institutional failures that have led the city to this condition. Tackling topics such as race and law

enforcement, gentrification, food deserts, urban aesthetics, credit markets, health care, childcare, and schooling, the contributors challenge conventional thinking about what we should observe when looking at neighborhoods.

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