THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

LEAGUE NEWS

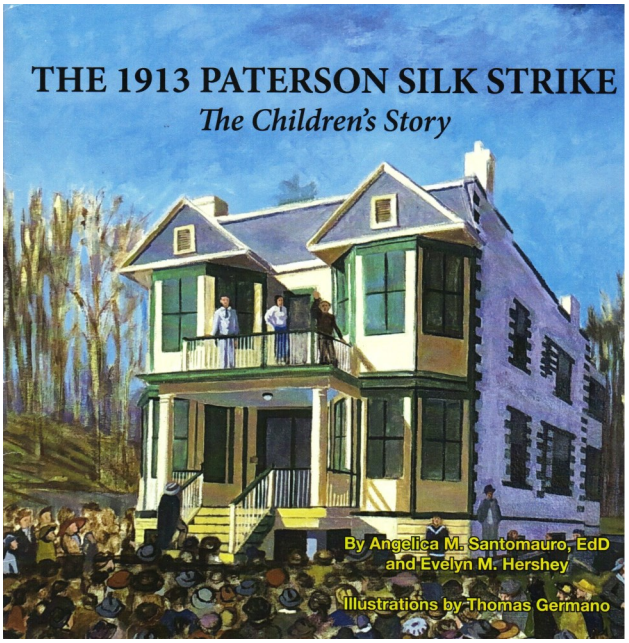
The Newsletter of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 47 No. 3 www.lhsnj.org September 2022

Saturday, November 5
Fall Meeting
Paterson Museum and the Paterson Museum Foundation, Paterson, Passaic County
****
Registration for and directions on p. 19-20

The American Labor Museum publishes illustrated book for young readers, *The 1913 Paterson Silk Strike: The Children's Story*

The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark proudly announces that it received project grants for the writing and printing of ***The 1913 Paterson Silk Strike: The Children's Story*** (2021).



The book for young readers (4th grade reading level) is a history of immigrant workers who came together to create a better future for all New Jerseyans.

Over 20,000 copies of the book are being distributed—one per 4th grade classroom and school and public libraries throughout New Jersey—by the museum and through New Jersey teachers' union (NJEA and AFT) representatives. Individual copies of the book are also available to the general public for purchase at the Museum Store at a cost of $10 each.

The 1913 Paterson Silk Strike: The Children's Story was created in collaboration by authors Angelica Santomauro, EdD, the museum's director, and Evelyn Hershey, the museum's education director, historian Steve Golin, PhD, editor Mark Torres, and artist/illustrator Thomas Germano.

The four children, who are main characters in the book, are fictional, but their experiences are based on true stories. The events are historically accurate. Mr. Germano's illustrations

(continued at the bottom of page four)

SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

November 5, 2022—Paterson Museum and the Paterson Museum Foundation, Paterson, Passaic County
April 22, 2023—Bordentown Historical Society, Bordentown, Burlington County
Summer 2023—Hunterdon County Historical Society, Flemington, Hunterdon County
Fall 2023 — Sparta Historical Society, Sparta, Sussex County
Spring 2024—Naval Air Station Wildwood, Cape May
Summer 2024—Central Region — open
Fall 2024—American Labor Museum/Botto House, Haledon, Passaic Count
Winter 2025 – Southern Region — The Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Port Norris, Cumberland County
Fall 2025 – Historical Society of Chatham Township, Chatham Township, Morris County
Spring 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 (2022)
Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

First Vice President (2022)
Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and Preservation Society

Vice President, Northern (2022)
Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Vice President, Central (2022)
Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar-Bodine

Vice President, Southern (2022)
Bruce Tell

Secretary (2022)
Hannah Kerwin
Somerset County Library System

Treasurer (2022)
Pary Tell
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

Trustee, Northern (2022)
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 (2022)
Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2022)

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 (2022)
Donald Katz, Esq.
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2022)
James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township Library

****

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

Executive Director
Linda J. Barth, 908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com
Membership Chairman
Jennifer Coultas
Publications Awards Committee Chairman
J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustees Emeriti
Bernard Bush
Kate Malcolm
Dorothy Pietrowski

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DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 15, 2022. 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.

League Awarded Grant to Support New Jersey History Professionals Who Were Affected by the Pandemic

Sixteen professionals were awarded grants of $1528 each from this grant. They are:

Brian Armstrong
Lee Behlman
Kamika Bennett
Gordon Bond
Nicole Cooley
B. David Emerson
Ridley Enslow
Randall Gabrielan
Vanessa Hamilton
Denison Harrield
Alex Hinton
Judith Krall-Russo
Talia Schaffer
Muriel Smith
Margaret Westfield
Phillis Wickham

PAST PERFECT
MUSEUM SOFTWARE

We are happy to report that during the month of April, two League members took advantage of the PastPerfect discount and bought new or updated software for their organization.
Those participating were:

Greate Egg Harbour Township Historical Society

Allaire Village

Photographs by Charles Warren Eaton Digitized

Frankfort, Germany

Rich Rockwell, a member of the Historical Society of Bloomfield, has digitized and curated a set of nearly 1,000 photos taken by Charles Warren Eaton between 1900 and 1925, mostly in Europe, now online at CharlesWarrenEaton.org. Eaton lived in Bloomfield from 1888 until his death in 1937. He won a number of international awards for his oil paintings. He was considered a *tonalist* and was known for intimate landscapes. As Maureen O'Brien stated in the 1980 catalog of an exhibit of his work at the Montclair Art Museum, "He did not simply experiment with the camera but became a competent and avid photographer and used his instrument to compose and secure the views of Bruges canals and Flemish poplars that would be translated onto canvas in his winter studios."

Switzerland

Photos include sites in Belgium, Netherlands, Germany, France, England, Italy, and Switzerland. Eaton's collection of negatives was donated to the Historical Society of Bloomfield by Priscilla Polkinghorn who inherited Eaton's estate.

If you need any more information or have any questions, contact Rich Rockwell at rrockwell@comcast.net.

Last known film footage of Thomas Edison depicts 1931 Fourth of July celebration

National Park Service and Library of Congress collaborate to digitize footage

WEST ORANGE, NJ – Thomas Edison commemorating the Fourth of July is featured in a series of recently digitized home movies that provide a rare look into the personal life of the inventor and his family. Thomas Edison National Historical Park partnered with the Library of Congress to digitize footage that originally belonged to Edison's son Charles.

The home movies, which range in length from 1-3 minutes and were photographed on 16 mm Kodak safety film, were stored in the museum collection of Thomas Edison NHP for decades before park staff worked with the Library of Congress to have them digitally restored.

The films include the last known footage of Thomas Edison celebrating the Fourth of July 1931 with members of his family, including his wife Mina, son Charles and his wife Carolyn, and son Theodore and his wife Anna at the front door of their home, Glenmont. Thomas Edison died three months later, on October 18, 1931.

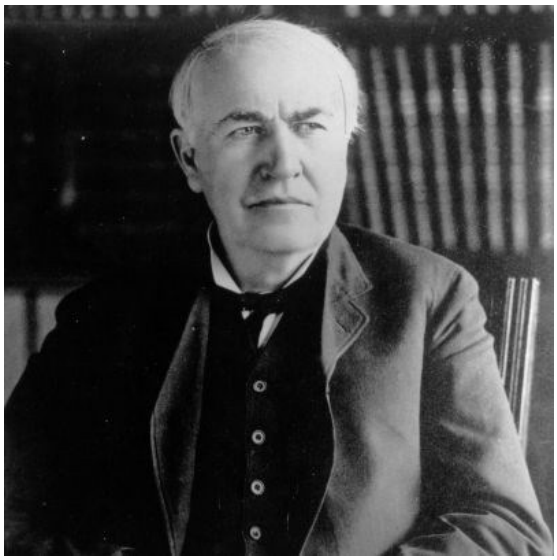
"Home movies can provide a much more accurate view of our past: unrehearsed and unpolished. This is especially true of the home movies of the famous. You often get to see a side of them they hide from the public lens," said Library of Congress Nitrate Film Vault Leader George Willeman.

Other footage in the collection shows visits by Charles and Carolyn Edison to the Grosse Point, Michigan home of Edsel and Eleanor Ford, to Grand Canyon National Park during a vacation in the southwestern U.S., and to the New Jersey shore with friends.

The home movies also capture the construction and landscaping of Landmore, the home Charles and Carolyn built in Llewellyn Park near Glenmont, exterior views of George Eastman's home in Rochester, New York, and a July 1, 1931 visit from King Prajadhipok of Siam to Thomas Edison's West Orange Laboratory and Glenmont. Later that month the king, who had a keen interest in American science and technology, visited the top of the Empire State Building and rode in the US Navy dirigible *Los Angeles* at Lakehurst, New Jersey.

continued on page four

(**Last known film footage of Thomas Edison depicts 1931 Fourth of July celebration** (cont'd from page 3)



Charles Edison (1890-1969) was the second child of Thomas and Mina Edison. In June 1916 he became chairman of the Board of Directors of Thomas A. Edison, Inc. Two years later, he married Carolyn Hawkins. In August 1926 he succeeded his father as president of the Edison company. In January 1937 President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed Charles Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He served as Secretary of the Navy from January-June 1940 before resigning to run a successful campaign for Governor of New Jersey. Charles was the state's 42nd governor from 1940 to 1944.

"We appreciate the relationship with the Library of Congress that made the digitization of these films possible," said park superintendent Tom Ross. "We thank the Library of Congress for helping us share these unfiltered glimpses of the Edison family with the world."

All eight films are available on Thomas Edison NHP's YouTube channel.

The Fourth of July footage can be seen now on our YouTube channel. Go to this link to see it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=809x05BkUJQ&list=PLlOO90OfRDXMw3ujJ7_ltO5M61oyOXZ23&index=4

For more information about Thomas Edison NHP please visit our website at www.nps.gov/edis.

New children's book on Paterson Silk Strike (continued from page one)

Artist Thomas Germano poses by his paintingin the American Labor Museum.

are based on historical photographs and objects in the American Labor Museum's collection. The book includes illustrations in watercolor and oil paints, a glossary and "fun facts." Educators are invited to visit the museum's website to access lesson plans and other supplemental teaching tools.

www.labormuseum.net

This program is made possible in part by a grant administered by the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Council from funds granted by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

The American Labor Museum is headquartered in the historic Botto House National Landmark, located at 83 Norwood Street, Haledon, NJ. It was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike. The museum offers a free lending library, restored period rooms, changing exhibits, Museum Store, Old World Gardens, educational programs, and special events. The museum's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tours are offered Wednesday through Saturday from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Virtual tours are offered via ZOOM by appointment. For further information about the museum or the new book, please visit the museum's website www.labormuseum.net, call 973-595-7953 or email labormuseum@gmail.com.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Friends of Anderson Park
Asbury Park Museum
Lucienne Beard
Historical Society of Berkeley Heights
Sara Borden
Butler Museum and Historical Committee
Historic Committee of Fairfield Township
Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Frazee House Inc.
Freehold Township Heritage Society
The Hermitage
Township of Hamilton Historical Society (Mays Landing)
Historical Society of Hammonton
Beverly Hashimoto
Hawthorne Historical Society
Information Age Science and History Museums
Barry Jacobson
Jewish Heritage Museum of Monmouth County
Aniko Muriglan
Jewish Historical Society of North Jersey
Kimmage Publishing
Lackawanna Cutoff Historical Committee
Lawnside Historical Society
Manalapan Township Historical Committee
Passaic County Historical Society
Phillipsburg Area Historical Society
Richard Polton
Historical Society of Scotch Plains/Fanwood
Geri Thomas
Helen Wall
Historic Walnford
Washington Crossing Revolutionary War Roundtable
Historical Society of West Windsor
Borough of Wildwood
Matthew Wolchko

CARRIE FELLOWS APPOINTED NEW DIRECTOR OF CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Carrie Fellows joined the Crossroads staff in August 2022. She brings thirty years' experience working primarily in government and nonprofit museums, with extensive experience in grants management, capacity building through strategic planning and visioning, creating constituencies, managing change after transition, and raising organization profiles. She was an active participant in Crossroads' visioning process following the 2002 National Heritage Area Feasibility Study.

Fellows most recently served as Director of the Hunterdon County (NJ) Department of Planning & Land Use and Executive Director of Hunterdon's Cultural & Heritage Commission, with previous experience as curator, educator, and director in small and midsized history museums. Her work as a member of the Board of Directors for the Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) and the Morris County Tourism Bureau led her to form personal and professional relationships with staff and leadership in museums, historic sites, and agencies all over the United States and Canada, and directly contributed to opportunities to help sites create meaningful, impactful programming. Fellows has presented to a variety of public and professional audiences on topics such as creating historic site costume standards; managing museums, collections, and volunteers; and women's clothing, tasks and roles in 18th and early 19th century civilian and military life. An active member of living history and museum organizations for more than 30 years, she has an international network of colleagues working in museums and related fields.

Letters, we get letters…

We deeply appreciate the inclusion of our programming in your listing. We've always been proud to be part of the League and have always enjoyed seeing what other groups are doing, attending many of the presentations.

— Irv Hyatt, Board Member of the Historical Association of Woodbridge Township

New exhibit at Ridgewood Schoolhouse Museum

Residents of Bergen County, from the Lenape tribes that fished the local streams to the enslaved people that worked Dutch-owned farms in the 18th century, all left their mark on the area.

Object Lessons, a new exhibit from the Ridgewood Historical Society, illustrates the history and growth of the area with objects from its permanent collection.

Highlights of this engaging exhibit of personal and household items, many owned by local families whose names (Ackerman, Zabriskie, Van Dien) dominate this corner of the state, include: Lenape stone tools, Revolutionary War artifacts (including a letter signed by George Washington), Civil War artifacts and clothing, original 19th-century school desks and supplies, and much more.

The exhibit is housed in the Ridgewood Historical Society's headquarters, The Schoolhouse Museum. which was originally a one-room schoolhouse built in 1872. The museum is located at 650 E. Glen Avenue in Ridgewood, adjacent to Old Paramus Church and across the street from Valleau Cemetery, all sites included on the National Register of Historic Places. The museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1-3 p.m. Group tours can also be arranged. Visit our website RidgewoodHistoricalsociety.org or contact us at 201 447-3242 or email museum@ridgewood historicalsociety.org.

Fountain at Lake Hopatcong
By Marty Kane

The Morris County Historical Preservation Trust Fund has awarded $204,800 for the restoration of the Hopatcong State Park fountain. It is hoped that restoration work can commence soon with the goal of a working fountain before the end of 2023.

Many thanks to local residents Bob Rung and Justin McCarthy for their voluntary engineering efforts, which demonstrated the viability and affordability of this project. We also note the tremendous collaborative effort with Superintendent Laura Franek and her team at Hopatcong State Park as well as the NJ State Park Service.

The Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum will need to fund 20% of this effort. The museum is grateful to the many members who sent an extra donation with their dues this year. A beefsteak dinner and tricky tray will be held later this year to further assist.

Marty Kane, president of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum and Chair of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation, notes that the historic fountain, where visitors often cooled off while visiting the nearby beach, was not created for aesthetic purposes. It was built in 1925 to resolve a huge social and political divide in the region that came to a head when the Morris Canal, once the commercial lifeline for transporting coal and other goods across northern New Jersey, was closed. For years prior, hotel operators, business owners and summer residents of Lake Hopatcong battled with mill owners and others downstream along the Musconetcong River, over

how much water flowed from Lake Hopatcong. The flow into the river was controlled by a dam and lock feeding the canal, and the lake levels often dipped below optimal levels for those who enjoyed it year-round, particularly during the summer season when Lake Hopatcong was a tourist attraction. However, the mills and other property owners downstream relied on a fully flowing Musconetcong River.

The fountain was created in conjunction with a state takeover of the canal property and plans to build a new dam. As Kane explained it in one of his many writings about the history of Lake Hopatcong:

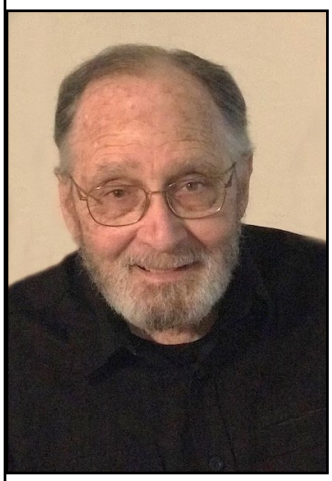
"The building of the fountain at Hopatcong State Park was the result of a compromise reached between lake residents and the Musconetcong River advocates. Designed by Cornelius C. Vermeule, the consulting and directing engineer in charge of the dismantling of the Morris Canal, a 24-inch pipe was placed in the dam leading to the fountain. The fountain was placed in the center of a circular concrete basin 40 feet in diameter to catch the falling water. Vermeule's calculations determined that this flow of water into the Musconetcong River would be equivalent to the amount supplied by the lake before the original dam was built and 'would lower the lake probably not more than six inches or a foot during the season.' As a side benefit to this measuring tool, Vermeule designed the fountain so that the water would spout up to a height of about 12 feet and he purposely placed it in a central position visible from the nearby road."

The fountain worked regularly in the decades that followed, with photos of families cooling off in its flow gracing the front of postcards in the 1950s and 1960s even after the state park beach was established nearby. However, by the 1990s, bathing was prohibited because of liability concerns and the fountain's use was abandoned because of maintenance issues.

Interestingly, debates still erupt from time to time at Lake Hopatcong over how much water should be allowed to flow down the Musconetcong River.

"The role of the fountain in measuring the flow of water to the Musconetcong River appears to have been forgotten. One must wonder if much of the discord about the amount of water being allowed to flow out of Lake Hopatcong in recent years may have been avoided if the fountain had continued to be used for the purpose for which it was built," noted Kane.

Passing of Historian Richard Waldron



The New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance was deeply saddened to announce the passing in May of Richard Waldron. Dick was a founding member of NJSAA in 1992 and served for many years as NJSAA Treasurer and Chair of the Paul Stellhorn Undergraduate Paper in New Jersey History Award Committee. For his decades of service to both the New Jersey Studies community and NJSAA, Dick received the 2021 Maxine Lurie Distinguished Service Award.

Services were held on May 10 at the Saul Colonial Home, 3795 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, NJ 08690.

Dick was preceded in death by his wife, Lorraine E. Williams Waldron, who passed away in October 2021. Both Dick and Lorraine are greatly missed by their friends in NJSAA.

League Business to be conducted at the Paterson meeting on November 5, 2022

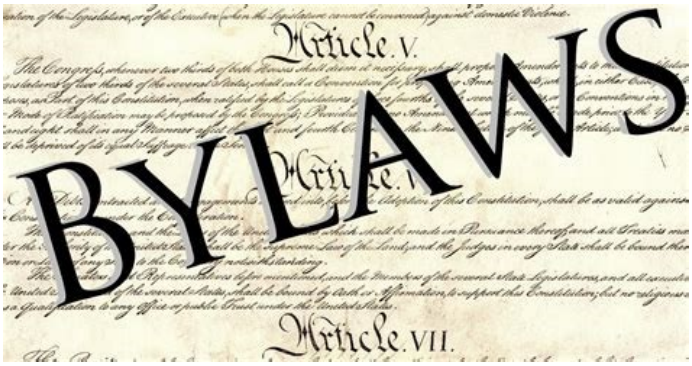
At this fall's regional meeting in Paterson, League business and elections will be on the agenda.

There will be an election of officers and trustees. The following is the slate of nominees.

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

Other League business - Bylaw changes

After a review of the Bylaws at the August board meeting, a motion was made, seconded and passed by a 2/3 majority to make the following updates.



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

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

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

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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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? You financial information must be in "good order." This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget, budgeting for special events and unforeseen calamities, as well as the financial reports that you are required to file with the IRS and State.

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

THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Newsletter Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2022. Only one issue of the newsletter per organization should be submitted for consideration. Five copies of each entry are due no later than January 31, 2023. They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone messages at 908-534-4600 or email jnvgt6@gmail.com with questions. A cover letter must accompany all submissions. The letter will include a contact email. The letter should state the frequency of publication and whether or not it is available online.

NEWSLETTER CRITERIA

Front Page:

Frequency of publication?

Front/back pages

Is it eye-catching?

Does it clearly identify the name of the group,
the site, the date, the location?

Is there a web address given?

Contents:

Does it contain articles that add to our historic knowledge or understanding of a topic?

Does it encourage participation in the organization's activities? Does it encourage membership?

Does it contain articles about events that are current (or were at the time it was published)?

Does it review previous activities and successes?

Does it promote other heritage tourism? Does it promote other sites? Does the group partner with other sites?

Can it be viewed online?

Pictures:

Do they have historic or cultural value?

Are they clearly labeled and credited to the photographer?

Graphic quality—Are they eye-catching?

Contact Info:

Is it easy to contact the group or editor for more information? Is there an address, phone number, and/or email to contact?

It's easy to become a member of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey!

Simply visit us at www.lhsnj.org and click on "Join the League." On the drop-down menu, choose your membership type and complete the form. Choose your method of payment and click "Submit."

If you would prefer a printed form, just contact Linda Barth at 908-240-0488 or barthlinda123@aol.com, and she will mail a form to you.

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Leave No Stone Unturned
By Maria DeLuca

"Geologists have a saying – rocks remember." ~ Neil Armstrong

When trying to solve a mystery, you must never forget to leave no stone unturned. For many years, the New Providence Historical Society has been trying to locate a Union County historic bronze marker that went missing on Fairmount Road, off Central Avenue.

Just before Memorial Day weekend 2022, Scott and Jess Pocaro, the current residents of 30 Fairmount Road, made a fantastic discovery. The missing boulder with a bronze plaque attached was upside down across the street! The plaque was face down in the dirt. Scott and Jess moved into this house about two years ago.

"When we moved into our house, our elderly neighbor said, 'Hey, this rock is yours,'" explains Scott. Their elderly neighbor Edna passed away recently, and her niece mentioned again that the rock at the end of their driveway belonged to the Pocaro house. She thought a plaque was somehow part of it.

On Tuesday, May 24th, Scott was finally able to return the rock to its rightful position on his property with the help of his work crew and a backhoe. Once the rock was moved, the plaque that had been hidden on the underside was now clearly visible. Scott and Jess went through papers left by the previous owner to find out more about this newly discovered historic WWII marker.

The marker tells the story of the WWII Civil Defense Aircraft Observation Station, Codename Chestnut, that stood on this ground from 1942-1945. They felt a strong sense of connection to this local history. Scott is a New Providence High School graduate. His grandfather Frank Phillipi is one of the many veterans honored with military flags around town. Scott and Jess knew what they had found was an important honor that needed to be shared with the community again.

Scott posted his find on the New Providence NJ Community Forum Facebook page, where Maria DeLuca, historical society trustee and social media chair, discovered his post. The three immediately connected to share information. Over the past year, Maria had made a few social media posts asking if anyone knew the current whereabouts of this missing historical plaque. Codename Chestnut was a "Turkey Tuesday Trivia" question last May. "I was so excited when I stumbled upon his post! I have read a lot about this station. I love the way the community came together to build it so quickly. Now we can remember and honor all of those that were involved," recalls Ms. DeLuca.

About Codename Chestnut:

Before electronic sensors guarded the approaches to North America, before satellite warning systems peered down from space, before air defense

aircraft carried identification equipment, the U.S. had the Ground Observer Corps. In World War II, the nation's air warning system lay mainly in the hands of the corps, a US military adjunct composed almost entirely of volunteers intently studying wall charts and model airplanes to memorize the characteristics of "ours" and "theirs." (airforcemag.com)

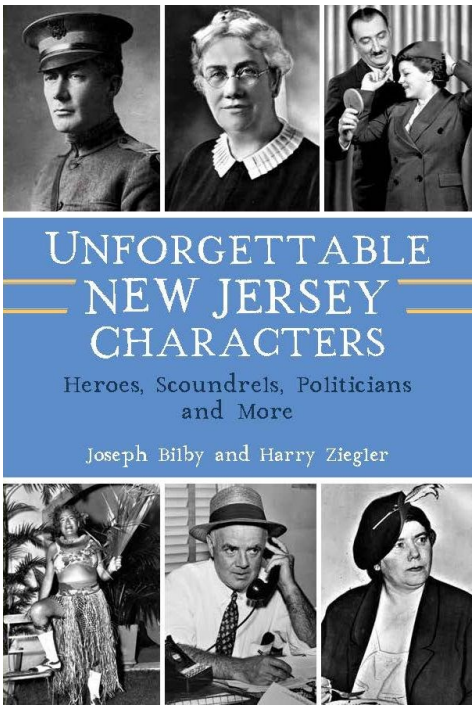
Volunteers from New Providence Borough, Summit, and New Providence Township (Berkeley Heights) maintained a 24-hour vigil at the Civil Defense Aircraft Observation Station in New Providence. Volunteers were called "Aircraft Warning Service Observers," charged with spotting every plane overflight and noting the direction and number of aircraft. There was much concern over the Summit/New Providence fly zone as it is a three-minute flying time from NYC. During wartime, the observation tower was located on Paper Street, because it was just an undeveloped road on the map (on paper only), later renamed Fairmount Road. After the war, the structure served as a residence until 1957, when the present house replaced it. The tower had a direct (no operator needed) telephone line to the central observation office for reports. There was a kitchenette, potbelly stove, and an extra room suitable for bunks on the first floor. The tower was glassed on four sides with a door onto the catwalk. Compass bearings were painted with luminous paint along the catwalk perimeters. The borough also paid for a 500-ft gravel driveway, one streetlamp, and water and sewer connections.

On Sunday, October 19, 1986, at 2:00 p.m. a plaque was unveiled at 30 Fairmount Road, New Providence in a ceremony sponsored by the Union County Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board in cooperation with the Historical Societies of New Providence and Summit. Music was performed courtesy of the Westfield Fife & Drum Corps. New Providence historian Frank Orleans designed the plaque, and he told the story of the observation station at the unveiling. The owners of the property at the time of the ceremony, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Fulton, granted a nine-foot easement to the borough for the marker.

If you are interested in learning more about our local history or becoming a member of the New Providence Historical Society, please visit our website, https://newprovidencehistorical.com, or donate to our conservation efforts here: https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=9KZRVFSY6LYJ8. You can also mail a check to 377 Elkwood Avenue, Attn: NP Historical Society, New Providence NJ 07974.

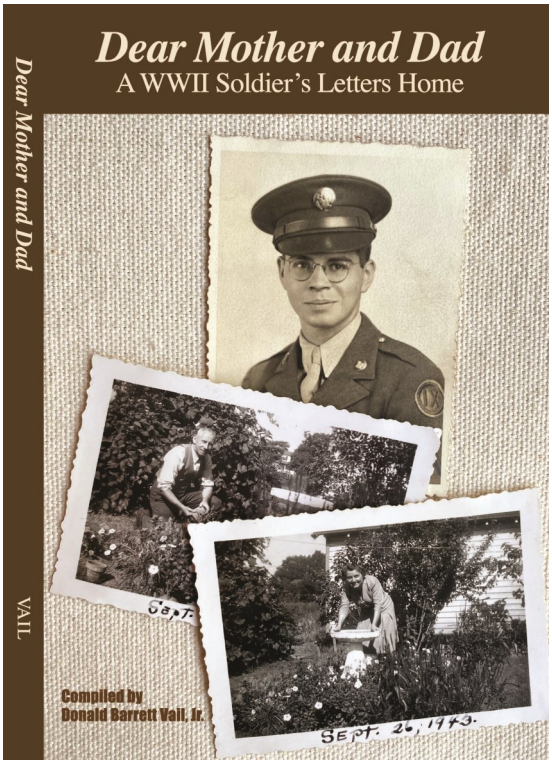
NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

Unforgettable New Jersey Characters: Heroes, Scoundrels, Politicians and More
By Joseph G. Bilby



They were famous and infamous in their day, and their stories were widely known in the state and even around the country. But fame is, as they say, fleeting, and often infamy, seemingly less likely to fade, is as well. This book is composed of brief biographies of once notable New Jerseyans, between the years 1775 and 1950, whose conduct made them unforgettable.

The subjects include a Revolutionary War hero whose existence is in doubt; a city treasurer who ran away to Mexico with the city's money and a dancing girl from New York; the first big-time lobbyist; a politician arrested by US marshals who, on his release, threatened to shoot them; a governor who ended up in a county jail; the man credited with founding Labor Day; the shortest man in the American Army in World War I; an escapee from a chain gang whose story became a popular film; the first woman elected to Congress from the state; a woman who became a colonel in the Marine Corps; a man who ran for Essex County sheriff as a cowboy; a Communist-chasing Congressman who ended up in jail; a freelance hangman; a religious lady who founded a church and supported the Ku Klux Klan; the last Civil War veteran; the last Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor awardee; and many more.



Dear Mother and Dad: A WWII Soldier's Letters Home
Compiled by Donald Barrett Vail, Jr.

About Donald

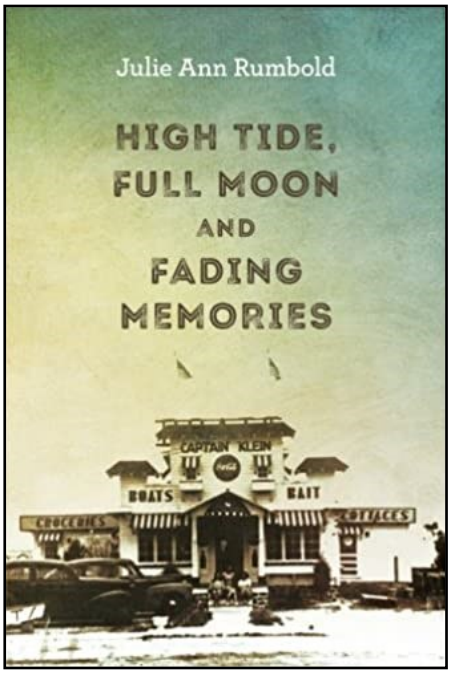
The letters Donald wrote to his mother and dad during his service in WWII show what life was like in the Army, what was important for a 19-year-old in those years, and what he did during the war. From guarding German prisoners of war in Kansas to serving in the occupation forces in Germany at war's end, you will travel with Donald around the US and then to Europe and back home again. The letters chronicle his experience as a soldier practicing Army drills, making new friends and even the meals he ate.

Though he was not a hero in the traditional sense, this collection of letters shows the everyday heroism that Donald and many young people displayed in service to their country in the midst of war. The letters also reveal the man himself with moments of humor and personal tastes that give the reader a sense of who he was. In the appendices of the book are letters from Donald's friends from home, and his parents including their response after he met "the one."

About the author

Donald Barrett Vail, Jr. (Barry) was born in Schenectady, New York during the post-war years of WWII. He grew up and was educated in California, then served as a Lutheran pastor for more than 30 years. He retired to Stockton with his wife, Allison.

High Tide, Full Moon and Fading Memories
By Julie Ann Rumbold



Julie Ann Rumbold captures the lore of a vanishing locale with her intricate stories of Thompson's Beach and East Point in Maurice River Township, New Jersey. As a child, Rumbold spent every summer on the shores of Thompson's Beach on the Delaware Bay—and she wasn't the only visitor drawn to this magical spot. It was the perfect location for young and old to create memories and share sunny days with loved ones.

Then…Thompson's Beach disappeared. Erosion rubbed it away, other incursions intruded—and resources to save it, financial and otherwise, were unavailable.

Thompson's Beach may have been erased, but it is not forgotten. East Point still survives as the home of the second oldest lighthouse in the state. This series of stories, sourced from local residents, resurrects the enchantment of the region as well as its fascinating history, giving the beach a new life within these pages. Rumbold writes of mysterious shipwrecks, natural disasters, and inhabitants banding together to survive the devastation of a deadly blowout tide. Rumbold's work is a community collaboration that will keep these stories alive.

Spend a few hours on the sunny shore evoked by this loving tribute, and become the latest in a long line of visitors who have discovered the lasting magic of Thompson's Beach.

Population Trends in New Jersey
By James W. Hughes and David Listokin

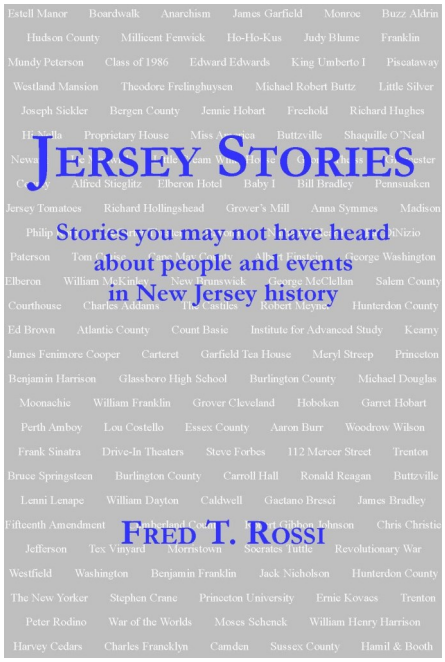
To fully understand New Jersey in the 2020s and beyond, it is crucial to understand its ever-changing population. This book examines the twenty-first century demographic trends that are reshaping the state now and will continue to do so in the future. But trend analysis requires a deep historical context. Present-day New Jersey is the result of a long demographic and economic journey that has taken place over centuries, constantly influenced by national and global forces. This book provides a detailed examination of this journey. The result is present-day New Jersey.

The authors also highlight key trends that will continue to transform the state: domestic migration out of the state and immigration into it; increasing diversity; slower overall population growth; contracting fertility; the household revolution and changing living arrangements; generational disruptions; and suburbanization versus re-urbanization. All of these factors help place in context the result of the 2020 decennial U.S. Census.

While the book focuses on New Jersey, the Garden State is a template of demographic, economic, social, and other forces characterizing the United States in the twenty-first century.

Jersey Stories
Stories you may not have heard about people and events in New Jersey history
By Fred T. Rossi

What was it like the night the Martians "invaded" New Jersey in 1938? What was it like having Albert Einstein as a neighbor in Princeton? How did a teenage Bruce Springsteen from Freehold get his high school band into a recording studio? What inspired young Charles Addams from Westfield to come up with his ghoulish cartoon creations? Have you ever heard of Mundy Peterson from Perth Amboy, who cast a very historic vote 150 years ago? How about Garret Hobart from Paterson, who was almost President of the United States? What about Col. Robert Johnson from Salem County and the legend of the poisonous tomato?



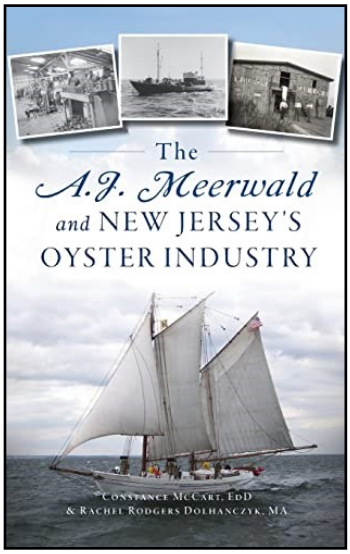
These are just a few of the stories about New Jersey that you'll find in the newly published *Jersey Stories: Stories you may not have heard about people and events in New Jersey history*. Author Fred T. Rossi, a writer and journalist for 30 years, has extensively researched some of the lesser-known stories about interesting people and unusual events from his home state's history.

"It's kind of a Jersey-centric history book," Rossi said, "with stories from New Jersey's history that people might not be very familiar with." And those stories are focused on New Jersey, he said. "I don't delve into Einstein's entire life in *Jersey Stories*; I only focus on his years living in Princeton. I also don't get into James Garfield's presidency. I only look at the preparations that were made in Elberon, where he came to recuperate after he was shot."

"There's something for everyone in *Jersey Stories*," Rossi said. "History, politics, entertainment, lots of trivia and plenty of interesting characters and events. I think whether you're a New Jersey resident or an expatriate, you're sure to find something of interest in *Jersey Stories*."

The 183-page *Jersey Stories* is in its third printing, costs $20 and is available directly from the author. To pay securely with a credit card, send your e-mail address and quantity desired to jerseystoriesNJ@gmail.com. The book is also available at several independent bookstores in New Jersey as well as on gardenstatelegacy.com, and it will soon be available on Amazon. You can also check out *Jersey Stories* on Facebook and Instagram. Questions? jerseystoriesnj@gmail.com

The *A.J. Meerwald* and the New Jersey Oyster Industry
by Constance McCart, EdD and Rachel Rodgers Dolhanczyk, MA
Bayshore Center at Bivalve



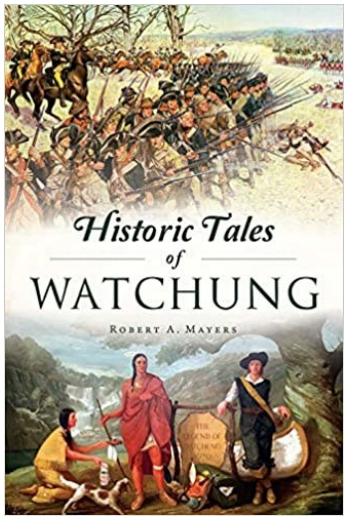
New Jersey's Roaring Twenties saw mob rumrunning operations, Nucky Johnson's Boardwalk Empire, and a new craze for dining on local oysters. Whether it was fancy Oysters Rockefeller or simply on the half shell, the nationwide demand for New Jersey's Delaware Bay oysters made boomtowns out of Port Norris and Bivalve.

Built in 1928, the *A.J. Meerwald* was a new type of schooner, specifically built for oystering the Delaware Bay oysters while under sail. As the Depression arrived and wreaked havoc on the industry, the *Meerwald* led a very different existence, serving with the US Coast Guard during the war and then clamming, until she was eventually discarded on a mud bank.

Found and restored to glory, the ship now tours the state's coasts as New Jersey's official tall ship. Authors Constance McCart and Rachel Dolhanczyk chart the history of New Jersey oysters and the historic ship that carries on the industry's traditions today.

Order your copy at https://www.bayshorecenter.org/shop/. $10 of every sale will go to support the restoration of the *A.J. Meerwald*.

Historic Tales of Watchung
By Robert Mayers



Local author and historian Robert A. Mayers presents fascinating tales from throughout Watchung's history.

Historic Tales of Watchung portrays the brave patriots, major league athletes, entertainers, scientists, and a world-class statesman among the many incredible people who have lived in Watchung.

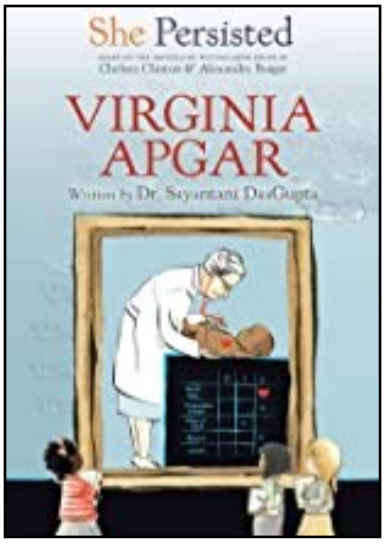
Sites of many critical events of the Revolutionary War here and nearby have been lost or neglected by history. Places where patriots fought and died are often unmarked, shrouded in mystery, distorted by mythology, and unknown even to Watchung people. After more than two centuries some of these sites have entirely disappeared while others have languished unnoticed.

Attracted by its abundant natural resources, European settlers began to farm the area in the seventeenth century. The citizens took up arms during the Revolutionary War, serving as minutemen in the Somerset County Militia, protecting the strategic Stony Brook Pass. Few people have heard of the incredibly fierce Battle of the Short Hills fought in Edison, Scotch Plains, and Plainfield. The defeated Americans moved their wagons full of wounded soldiers up Bonnie Burn Road and down Valley Road through Watchung on their way to Bridgewater. For many years afterward, Bonnie Burn Road was called "Bloody Gap." The entire supply column of Washington's Continental Army also marched down Valley Road on the way to the great victory at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781. This road was often used as it provided the security of being behind the first ridge of the mountains.

The name "Watchung" comes from *Wacht Unks,* the Indian term meaning "high hills." The Lenape tribe that lived in our town were part of the Delawares, one of the Iroquois Nations. The first residents had two campsites in Watchung. The largest was on Sterling Road above Brookdale Avenue. It covered the sites of Valley View School and Mobus Field. The camp was on the bank of Watchung Lake, a meadow in those days. The other Indian campground began at Best's Lake and extended along the northeast side of Valley Road from Hillcrest to Bonnie Burn Road. The nature and extent of the Indian presence in Watchung comes from a number of artifacts found here. Early legal documents also provide evidence that they passed through this place long before European settlers arrived.

The town survived an existential crisis in 1924 as the state attempted and failed to convert the region into a massive water reservoir.

She Persisted: Virginia Apgar
by Sayantani DasGupta



Inspired by the #1 New York Times bestseller ***She Persisted*** by Chelsea Clinton and Alexandra Boiger comes a chapter book series about women who stood up, spoke up, and rose up against the odds!

In this chapter book biography by bestselling author and physician Sayantani DasGupta, readers learn about the amazing life of Virginia Apgar—and how she persisted.

There weren't many women who tried to become doctors when Virginia Apgar went to medical school—but she didn't let that stop her. After a professor discouraged from becoming a surgeon, she became an anesthesiologist instead and created the famous Apgar test to check the health of newborn babies. It's a test that's still used in hospitals across the world today!

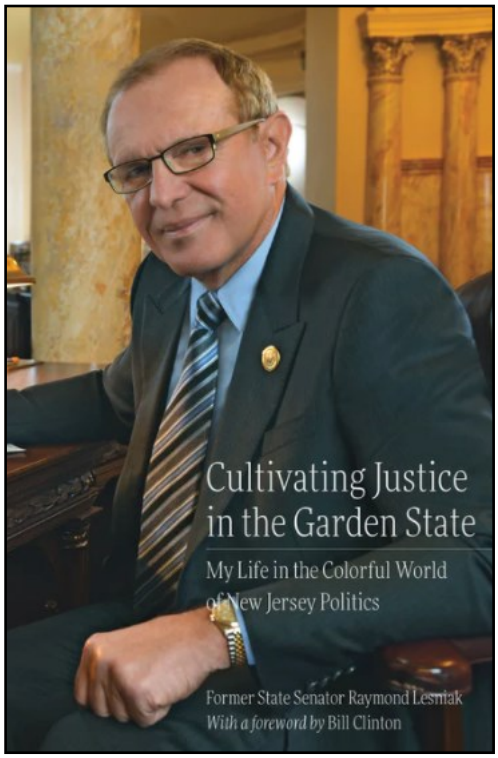
Complete with an introduction from Chelsea Clinton and with black-and-white illustrations throughout, the book includes a list of ways that readers can follow in Virginia Apgar's footsteps and make a difference!

And don't miss out on the rest of the books in the ***She Persisted*** series, featuring so many more women who persisted, including Sally Ride, Temple Grandin, and more!

Praise for *She Persisted: Virginia Apgar*:

"A fast-paced tale that will spark curiosity—Dr. Apgar would approve." —Kirkus Reviews

"Equally appealing for report writers and readers looking for role models." —Booklist



Cultivating Justice in the Garden State
By Raymond Lesniak

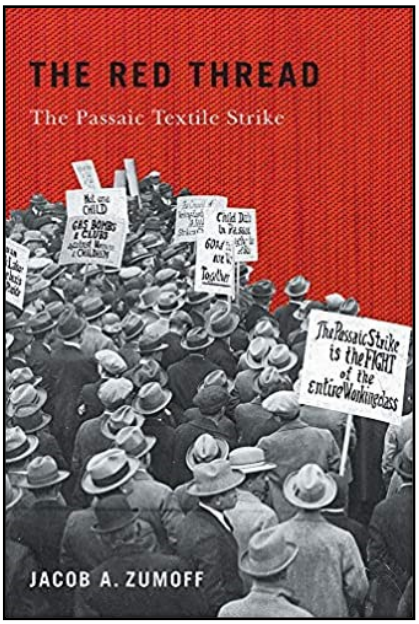
Born into a working-class Polish immigrant family in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Raymond Lesniak went on to become a major force in the tough and bruising world of state politics. In this remarkable memoir, he reflects upon his life and career fighting for social justice in the Garden State.

He recounts the many causes he championed in his forty years as a state legislator, from the landmark Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act to bills concerning animal protections, marriage equality, women's reproductive rights, and the abolition of the death penalty. He also delves into his experiences on the national stage as a key advisor for the Bill Clinton and Al Gore presidential campaigns. With refreshing candor, Lesniak describes both his greatest achievements and his moments of failure, including his unsuccessful 2017 gubernatorial run.

Cultivating Justice in the Garden State is both a gripping American success story and a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the inner workings of our political system. It offers an insider's perspective on the past fifty years of New Jersey politics, while presenting a compelling message about what leaders and citizens can do to improve the state's future.

From Rutgers University Press.

The Red Thread: The Passaic Textile Strike
By Jacob A. Zumoff

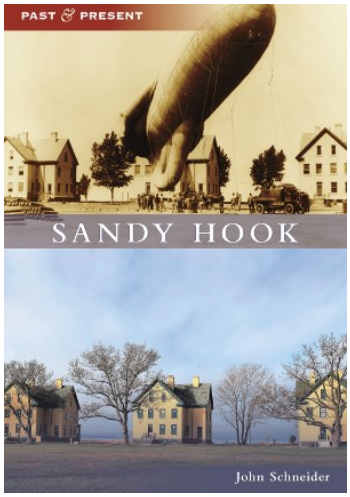


This book tells the story of 15,000 wool workers who went on strike for more than a year, defying police violence and hunger. The strikers were mainly immigrants and half were women.

The Passaic textile strike, the first time that the Communist Party led a mass workers' struggle in the United States, captured the nation's imagination and came to symbolize the struggle of workers throughout the country when the labor movement as a whole was in decline during the conservative, pro-business 1920s.

Although the strike was defeated, many of the methods and tactics of the Passaic strike presaged the struggles for industrial unions a decade later in the Great Depression.

Available from Rutgers Press, local bookstores, and Amazon.

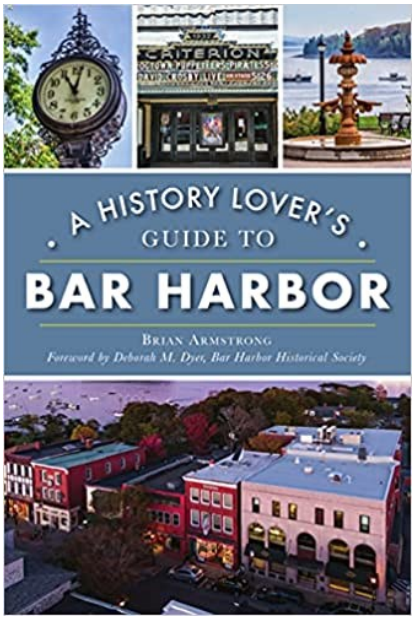


Sandy Hook
By John Schneider

Sandy Hook, New Jersey, as well as its historical significance to world events, oddly remains a mystery to many of the tourists who come to its beaches and explore its ruins.

The oldest structure, the Sandy Hook Lighthouse, was erected in 1764. Today, thousands of people climb the steps of this national historic landmark to reach the highest point on the peninsula. Many others roam through some of the open buildings and ruins of Fort Hancock and the Sandy Hook Proving Ground where soldiers were once ready to defend New York City from enemy attack and tested weapons of war.

A History Lover's Guide to Bar Harbor
By Brian Armstrong



Bar Harbor has evolved from humble beginnings to become one of Maine's most popular destinations. This tour goes beyond the typical travel guide to explore its fascinating historical sites in detail.

A trail of existing buildings and monuments provides a backdrop for an unconventional history of places, people and events, with many previously unpublished photographs and untold entertaining stories.

Discover the changes wrought by the world wars, the Spanish influenza, Prohibition and the Fire of 1947. Tour the Way Bak Ball, La Rochelle, the Casino, and the Wharf. From Bar Harbor's first African American sea captain to the story of the two Miss Shannons, author Brian Armstrong offers a fascinating look into the history behind some of Bar Harbor's most famous landmarks.

[Editor's note: Although this is the New Jersey Bookshelf, we include this book because the author is our League webmaster and incoming president, Brian Armstrong.]

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey
Northern Meeting
Saturday November 5, 2022
The Paterson Museum, 2 Market Street, Paterson NJ 07501

9:30 a.m.	Registration, breakfast and coffee, information table
10:00 a.m.	Welcome from Director Giacomo DeStefano, Glenn Corbett, Museum Foundation President and a special guest
10:15 a.m.	League Business Meeting
10:45 a.m.	Program: **Digitizing Glass Plates Negatives**, presented by Heather Garside
11:15 a.m.	Break
11:30 a.m.	Program: **Paterson New Jersey: America's First Planned Industrial City** Presented by Director Giacomo DeStefano
12:30 p.m.	Lunch buffet
1:00 p.m.	Guided tour of the Paterson Museum
2:00 p.m.	Tour of the Great Falls, our newest national historical park
3:00 p.m.	Tour of the Art Factory and/or the Botto House

Questions before November 5: The Paterson Museum, 973-321-1260, hgarside@patersonnj.gov
Questions on November 5: 973-477-7317

Suggested Lodging
Courtyard by Marriott, 263 US-46 West, Wayne, NJ 07470 Phone: 973-646-3377
Holiday Inn Rt. 46, 1 US- 46 West, Totowa, NJ 07512 Phone: 973-785-9000

To register, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for **$30**, payable to the Paterson Museum Foundation, to: The Paterson Museum, 2 Market Street, Paterson, NJ 07501. Please register by November 1, 2022.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

Directions to the Paterson Museum: 2 Market Street, Paterson, NJ 07501

From the East:
Route 80 West to Exit 57 B-A. Stay to the right of the exit and follow the signs to Downtown Paterson. At the second traffic light turn left onto Cianci St., then turn left at the next traffic light onto Market St. The Museum is last building on left side of the street. Turn left into parking lot with locomotives out front.

From the West:
Route 80 East to Exit 57 B – Route 19 "Downtown Paterson." Follow
the signs to Grand St. At the traffic light, turn left off onto Grand St. At the next traffic light turn right onto Spruce St. At next traffic light turn right onto Market St., and turn into first parking lot on the right at the locomotives.

From the North:
Garden State Parkway South to Exit 160. Follow to Route 80 West.
Follow same directions from the East.

From the South:
Garden State Parkway North to Exit 155 A (a left lane exit), exit to Route
19 North, and follow signs to "Downtown Paterson, Grand St."
Then follow same directions as from the West.