



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 36 No. 1

www.lhsnj.org

January 2011

**Winter Meeting
Ocean City
Historical Society,
Ocean City, Cape
May County
March 26, 2011**

Article, registration
form, and directions,
p. 5, 23, 24



MEMBERS INVITED TO JOIN THE ADVOCATES FOR NJ HISTORY

You are cordially invited to join the Advocates for New Jersey History. The Advocates for New Jersey History is a statewide organization, comprised of individuals and organizations representing the entire history community.

The History Advocates' goal is for public history in New Jersey to benefit and educate residents of New Jersey and attract tourists and visitors to the state through the presentation of the highest quality public history programming and facilities. The advocates seek enactment of measures to ensure that New Jersey's historical and cultural assets maximize their potential to contribute to the state's economic development and enhance its quality of life by:

- ◆ increasing growth of the cultural heritage tourism industry;
- ◆ improving education about our common history for students of all ages;
- ◆ preserving our cultural heritage; and
- ◆ increasing awareness of the special role of New Jersey in the nation's history.

We also seek to secure sustainable funding, providing renewable resources to ensure that heritage tourism fulfills its economic development potential.

Membership dues are \$25 for individuals, \$10 for students and \$50 for organizations whose annual budgets are less than \$50,000. Please send dues to: Leslie Bensley, Treasurer, Advocates for New Jersey History, c/o Morris County Tourism Bureau, 6 Court Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; njhistoryadvocates.org.

LEAGUE PLANS FUND-RAISING BUS TRIPS AROUND THE GARDEN STATE

Visit many of the great sites in New Jersey and support the historical community at the same time. We have planned three bus tours and a walking tour as fund-raisers for both the League and the New Jersey Historical Society. These all-day tours are open to everyone, not only our members. Enjoy visiting a variety of historic sites in our fascinating state. In order for all of the money to support the historic sites and the two non-profits, we ask that you bring a lunch to enjoy at one of the stops. Registration information can be found at the end of this article.

March 19 — Union County—Tour Liberty Hall, home of William Livingston, New Jersey's first elected governor and signer of the Constitution; Boxwood Hall State Historic Site, home of Elias Boudinot, president of the Continental Congress that ratified the peace treaty ending the American Revolution; Elizabeth's First Presbyterian Church, built in the 1780s, and its Old Burying Ground; and the Woodruff House/Eaton Store Museum, headquarters of the Hillside Historical Society. Trip will leave from Chatham.

(continued on page four)

SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 25—HISTORY ISSUES CONFERENCE
State Museum, Trenton — Details to follow soon via email.

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

President (2012)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

First Vice President (2011)

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Victorian Society

Vice-President, Northern (2012)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Vice-President, Central (2011)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice-President, Southern (2012)

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Trustee, Northern (2012)

Dorothy E. Johnson
Historical Society of Bloomfield

Trustee, Northern (2012)

Kate Malcolm
Madison Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2012)

Jeffrey McVey
Lambertville Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2012)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2012)

OPEN

Trustee, Southern (2012)

Jean C. Lacey
Ocean County Historical Society

Trustee-at-Large (2012)

Alicia Gibson
Victorian Society

Trustee-at-Large (2010)

Robert R. Longcore
Andover Historical Society

Historian (2012)

Chad Leinaweaver
Newark Public Library

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

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street,
Somerville, NJ 08876;
908-722-7428; barths@att.net

Membership Chairman

Dorothy Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush, Ruth Kane Fern

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It's been my pleasure to be your president for the past two years. And, while I thought I could continue to juggle responsibilities and serve another term, life has a way of telling you when you must pass the gavel. Knowing I couldn't reliably attend all our meetings, I called upon our board for help. We are so fortunate to have very talented and dedicated officers and trustees. And, I was delighted when our Southern Region VP, Tim Hart, agreed to accept the presidency. I am excited that Tim will lead us in new directions with the help of his many contacts throughout the historic community.

As for me, I've accepted the position of chair of the Kevin Hale Publication Awards; I'll develop criteria to use to judge the awards and form a committee of panelists to do so. I look forward to this changed responsibility and continuing to be involved wherever possible.
JB Vogt

I am honored to fill the unexpired term as the president of our organization. J.B. is a gracious and dedicated individual who has assured us that she will continue to contribute as far as her family responsibilities allow. I will not be able to replace her; I will simply do the best I can. As an older American (56), I ask you to work with me, since I do not know everyone's name, and I am still learning to connect names to faces.

I will be ably assisted by Linda Barth, a one-woman dynamo who powers the best information network in the state of New Jersey. As a part-time staff of one, she accomplishes more than many larger "professional" staffs.

I see our league as the core of the New Jersey historic community. I am a strong advocate for cooperation, shared services, and joint projects. Heritage is the core of our sense of place and underpins our shared quality of life. New Jersey has earned a prominent place in our national history and culture. From professional accredited museums to small volunteer house museums, our historical societies provide an irreplaceable public service.

In addition to attending our three yearly meetings, I encourage all of you to participate in the New Jersey History
(continued on page three)

DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 15, 2010. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barths@att.net.

Material submitted electronically should be in WORD format. Photographs will be scanned and returned. Digital photographs should be submitted in .jpeg or .tiff.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER (continued from page two)

Issues Convention on March 25 at the NJ State Museum and the return of the Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair on May 7 at Allaire State Park in Monmouth County. I also encourage you to join the Advocates for New Jersey History.

Tim Hart

(Ed. note: To join the Advocates for New Jersey History, as an individual or as an organization, please contact Leslie Bensley, treasurer, at the Morris County Visitors Center, 6 Court Street, Morristown, NJ 07960; 973-631-5151; lbensley@morristourism.org.)

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY IN NEW JERSEY

Great news! History Day is continuing to grow in New Jersey and we are hoping that members of the history community would like serve as judges. This year we will again be holding two regional competitions along with the state competition. The 2011 theme is *Debate and Diplomacy*. We believe that this theme will make for a very interesting contest.

Contest Dates: The Northern Regional Contest is being held at Seton Hall University on April 2, 2011.

The Southern Regional Contest will be held at Kean University on Sunday, March 27, 2011.

The State Contest is being held at William Paterson University on May 7, 2011.

Contests typically begin at 8:15 am and conclude around 4:00 pm. A continental breakfast and lunch is provided. If your schedule allows, please try to judge at two contests if you can. We greatly appreciate your willingness to give of your time and share your expertise. The students value your critical eye and feedback.

Please contact Margaret Renn at njhistoryday@wpunj.edu to let us know if you will be available to help. In your e-mail, please indicate: Your name, contests at which you can judge, and preferred judging category (papers, exhibits, performances, documentaries, websites). We will do our best to honor your category request.

Thank you in advance for your interest and assistance. We anticipate a very exciting year as well as our largest ever. If you know of others who would be qualified to serve as a judge or room manger, please ask them to email us or provide us their contact information. Please contact Margaret Renn at njhistoryday@wpunj.edu, 973-720-3978 or Nancy Norris-Bauer at norrisn@wpunj.edu, or 973-720-3131.

ANNUAL KEVIN M. HALE PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2010

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey announces its **ANNUAL KEVIN M. HALE PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM** and invites its member organizations to submit entries. Awards will be given for works published in the year 2010, in the following categories:

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

Please note that each member organization may submit an entry in only ONE category. and no works of fiction may be entered.

For works published in 2010, awards will be presented at the league meeting in **June 2011**. The deadline for submission of entries is **JANUARY 31, 2011**. Please send your entries to: **Publication Awards Committee, League of Historical Societies of NJ**, c/o J.B. Vogt, 6 Forty Oaks Drive, White House Station, NJ 08889. If you have questions, please contact J.B. at jbvogt@comcast.net.

There is no entry form. Simply include a brief note describing the items you are submitting. For further information, contact Linda Barth, Executive Director, LHSNJ, at 908-722-7428, barths@att.net.

April 16 — Liz Del Tufo, the premier tour guide for the city of Newark, will lead us around the city that she knows so well. We'll stop at the Essex County Courthouse and admire the Lincoln statue; the first large synagogue to be built in Newark, now surrounded by the gardens of the Greater Newark Conservancy; Penn Station, an Art Deco masterpiece; Branch Brook Park (an Olmsted park and the first county park to be opened for public use in the U.S.) at the height of the cherry blossom festival; and the beautiful Sacred Heart Cathedral Basilica. Trip will leave from Chatham.

May 14—Mount Laurel, Camden, and Haddonfield. Visit the Indian King Tavern State Historic Site, where the Great Seal of New Jersey was adopted; the statue of Hadrosaurus, the state dinosaur; the Alice Paul Institute, home of the suffragette who helped pass the 19th amendment and authored the Equal Rights Amendment; the statue of Matthew Henson, who reached the North Pole with Admiral Peary; and the Battleship New Jersey, the most decorated battleship in U.S. Navy history. Bus will pick up participants in Chatham, Somerville, and Cherry Hill.

June 18—Walking tour of Trenton's historic district: tour of the State House, the second oldest in continuous use in the United States; the Old Barracks, site of Washington's decisive victory over the Hessians in 1776; the new World War II monument; the Contemporary Club, housed in a restored Victorian townhouse; the archaeological dig next to the State House (if it's still uncovered); and, the Trenton Battle Monument, with 360°-views of the city. Meet at the Marriott Hotel in Trenton.

Questions? Email or phone Linda Barth, barths@att.net or 908-722-7428.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR LEAGUE BUS/WALKING TOURS

March 19 — Union County tour	# of people _____ @ \$50 =	\$ _____
April 16 — Newark City tour	# of people _____ @ \$45 =	\$ _____
May 14 — Camden area tour	# of people _____ @ \$70 =	\$ _____
June 18 — Trenton walking tour	# of people _____ @ \$40 =	\$ _____
	Total enclosed	\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Please make check payable to the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey or just **LHSNJ** and mail to Linda Barth at 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876. Directions to the meeting place will be emailed or mailed two weeks before the tour.

BUSINESSES AROUND OUR STATE:

Please say thanks to our advertisers by patronizing their businesses throughout the state. Invite businesses in your area to advertise in the *League News* for publicity around the Garden State. Remind them that over **55,000 members** will see their ad. Business owners may contact Linda Barth at 908-722-7428 or barths@att.net. Our advertising schedule:

- ◆ **Business card size ad, \$100 each; \$85 each for three issues.**
- ◆ **1/4 page ad, \$125 each; \$100 each for three issues.**

Museum Consulting Services:

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To discuss any upcoming project, please contact Rebecca S. Chen

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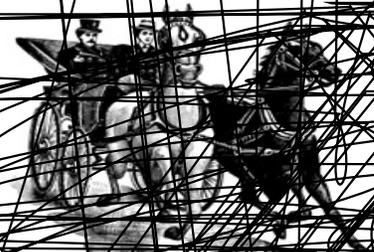
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GUIDED TOURS OF BOARDWALK HALL ORGANS

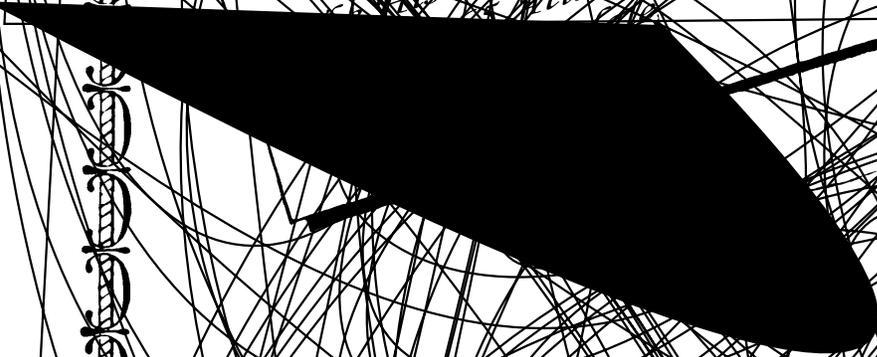
The Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ Society, in association with Boardwalk Hall and with the kind co-operation and permission of its management, is pleased to offer guided tours of the Midmer-Losh and Kimball organs. Tours are normally scheduled on the first and third Tuesday of the month, but the schedule may change, so please check by sending your request to the email address below.

Boardwalk Hall is located at: 2301 Boardwalk, Atlantic City, NJ 08401.





The Spirit is Back!
 We invite you to join us as an
 exhibitor at the
 EXHIBIT of the JPKS
 STATE HISTORY FAIR
 MARCH 2014
 at the Village at Atlantic
 Station, Atlanta, GA



SCIENTISTS MAKE DINOSAUR FIND AT CONSTRUCTION SITE

By day, workers plow through the former ABC quarry site, leveling the ground, readying it for the homes of the future. But by night, scientists sift the newly dug soil for treasure from a barely conceivable past: fossils, from the first age of dinosaurs.

Developer K. Hoynaman Homes will build a new subdivision on the privately owned site. But scientists and history buffs have petitioned officials to absorb part of the quarry into a park, thus preserving a sandstone wall imprinted with dinosaur tracks predating the great mass extinction and showing effects of climate change. But time's running out as the county begins to build its courts. And now, with tracks stop the climb already having pushed a shroud of soil over the site, those scientists have turned their efforts to salvaging what fossils they can for museum display.

It's really bulldozed over," says Peter Caudley, an amateur paleontologist and museum founder who's collected more than 2,000 specimens on a petition to incorporate the wall into the adjacent Pine Camp Park. "The layers are intact, but they're about 10 to 15 feet deep under soil now."

Preserved in the wall are the footprints of dinosaurs and other life plus evidence of the conditions following the Triassic-Jurassic wipeout of half of the planet's life forms amid volcanic activity about 206 million years ago.

"The Triassic extinction layer is just below the lava in the sandstone, and the dawn of the Jurassic period is there, with the most species at that layer of any quarry in New Jersey," said Chris Laskowich of Woodland Park, a former science teacher at Paterson's Eastside High School.

There are dinosaur tracks throughout the Newark Basin, but this is "the only place that remains in eastern North America where the geological context of those footprints can be seen," said Paul Olsen, a Columbia University professor who has extensively researched the site. In laymen's terms, that means it's the only such site not shattered by development.

The fossils also include other animals' tracks and even rain patterns. Water ripples also are visible in the sandstone, indicating a lake once existed, said Gary Vecchiarelli, research associate at the State Museum's Bureau of Natural History and a geoscience student at New Jersey City University.

Layers of sediment show the lake dried up and then returned, Laskowich said. There also is a spot where lava "paused and chilled and then started up again."

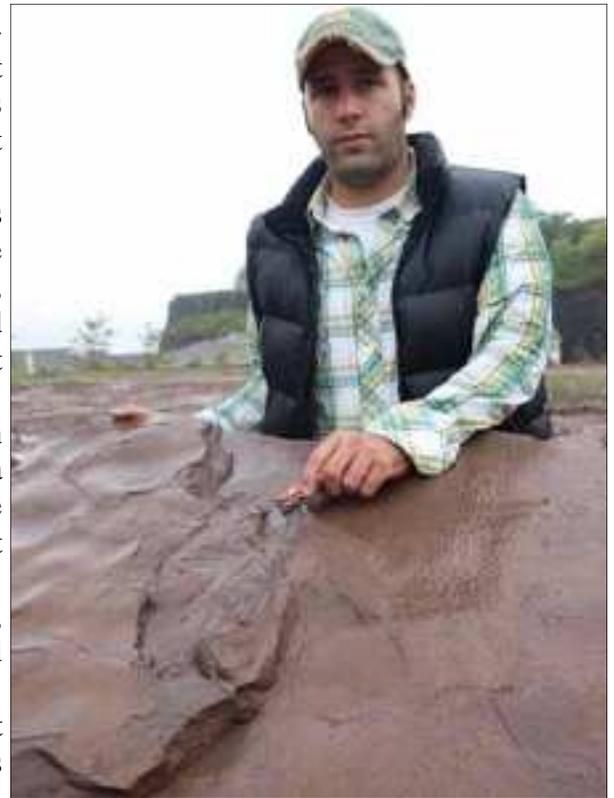
Collectively, these natural records show the conditions that sparked the mass extinction: the eruption of giant lava flows coupled with a reversal of Earth's magnetic field, Olsen said.

The eruptions likely emitted "huge amounts" of carbon dioxide that "wiped out about 50 percent of the groups of living organisms, and it took 20 million years for ecosystems to recover that diversity," he added. In the current context of climate change, "It certainly bears examination but we can't examine it if the rock outcrops are covered with concrete."

McCauley's petition asks the Passaic County Parks Department to incorporate the wall into adjacent Rifle Camp Park, leaving the rest of the quarry to the condos. County spokesman Keith Furlong said the county received the petition "a few months ago" and that its Planning Board had met with K. Hovnanian executives about ways to preserve the tracks and fossils.

But a spokesman for K. Hovnanian said the developer will proceed as planned. "We're bringing this site into conformance with the rest of the neighborhood," said spokesman Doug Fenichel. "We're creating a lot of good homes and a lot of economic activity. This is a great story of taking an industrial operation that was in a residential area and reclaiming it for residential use."

The scientists said they do not oppose developing the quarry so long as the fossil wall is left intact. "If they were to leave the red rock exposed but not excavatable, that would still be very valuable," Olsen said. "But if they put a wall of cement on top of it, that would, for all practical purposes, eliminate the scientific value of the site."



Gary Vecchiarelli, a research assistant at the New Jersey State Museum, holds a pocket knife at the heel of the three-toed dinosaur track found at K. Hovnanian's Four Seasons at Great Notch, Woodland Park, N.J. Fossilized raindrops are visible under his arm. K. Hovnanian is working with the museum to preserve scientifically significant rocks found during excavation. (Photo: Business Wire)
<http://eon.businesswire.com>

FINDING A PROGRAM...HOW TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER

Are you the program chairman for your society? Do you have a hard time finding new and exciting presenters? One great resource is the League's Speakers Bureau handbook.

The programs in the handbook are recommended by our members and cover a wide range of topics: cemeteries, food, architecture, black history, government, historical figures, holidays, home and family life, horticulture, labor and industry, Lenape, maritime, medical, military, music, Pine Barrens, religion, transportation, rivers, sports, and women's issues.

To receive a copy electronically, simply email our executive director, Linda Barth, at barths@att.net, and she'll be happy to send the Speakers Bureau list to you.

And please send along a brief write-up of good programs you've seen, and we'll add them to the list.

Liberty State Park Rail Access: Enhancing the Mobility, Environment, and Experience for Visitors

by Bill McKelvey and S. David Phraner

In the fall of 2007 the Central Railroad of New Jersey Veteran Employees Association unveiled its granite milepost monument to past employees of the CNJ under the Train Shed at the Jersey City Terminal in Liberty State Park. Speakers at the event called for restoration of tracks to bring rail equipment to the location for display, interpretation, and interpretive rail ride experiences. Early in 2008 a meeting was held with park staff to explore how to proceed with the initiative to return rail access to Liberty State Park, New Jersey's largest urban State Park. We were advised that a feasibility study would be required. With the assistance of members of the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Center, the Rutgers University Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy was approached to enquire if they might perform such a study for us. They agreed, and a studio which attracted thirteen graduate students was formed, advised and overseen by transportation professionals. The group proceeded with a Liberty State Park Rail Access Feasibility Study.

The Study Conclusions: A heritage trolley connection between the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Station/Liberty Science Center and the CNJ Terminal/Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island ferry docks, as well as a connection with Conrail Shared Assets to facilitate display of rail equipment were recommended. The latter line could also be used to provide transportation in the form of an historic rail ride experience to the south end of the park. The problems needed to be addressed at the park were how to plan for expected growth in visitation without the negative impacts of increasing traffic congestion, paved parking lots and road areas. The desired outcome was to move people in, out, and around the park without inducing more undesirable automobile use.

The study team and leaders recognized two objectives: shifting public access to and within the park from auto dependency to public transit and designing a means for bringing historic rail artifacts to the terminal for interpretation of park heritage with exhibits authentic to the park site. The provision of convenient rail shuttles could entice visitors to leave their autos home and take public transit. Reducing the impact of autos and the carbon footprint of the park were highly desirable goals. Such a shift to transit would make the park more livable and better for the enjoyment of visitors, as well as provide broader public access and increase the capacity of the park for special events. The stakeholders and professional experts told us where the rail rights-of-way should be located to minimize impacts on the park's open space, view planes, special places, and peacefulness. We painstakingly followed their guidance. The planning studio team explored numerous examples of vintage rail transit in other parks and recreation centers and found that the successful and expanding trolley shuttle service in Lowell National Historic Park was an outstanding model. Public presentations were made of the positive conclusions of the Bloustein Studio at the end of 2008 as well as in 2009 and a final report was completed.

The current situation: Liberty State Park is presently auto-dominated and has become even more so with the elimination of the Route 305 Park Shuttle bus by New Jersey Transit. The largest segment of greenhouse gases (35%) is produced by transportation. It is well known that urban areas, such as where Liberty State Park is located, generate 75% of all greenhouse gases. A smarter, greener, and more sustainable future will require us to move away from the auto and the use of fossil fuels, especially at urban locations like Liberty State Park. A substantial reduction could be achieved by reducing auto vehicle miles traveled in and around the park. A majority of park visitors would utilize transit more if it were conveniently available and well promoted. At present, the Hudson Bergen Light Rail station is more than a mile from the CNJ Terminal and the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island ferry dock. Connectivity of tran-

Public Service Coordinated Transport Exchange Place trolley terminal, across the street from the Pennsylvania Railroad's Exchange Place train/ferry terminal and entrance to the Hudson & Manhattan Railroad. It was truly an intermodal terminal with great connectivity to New York City. Credit: Railroad Avenue Enterprises.

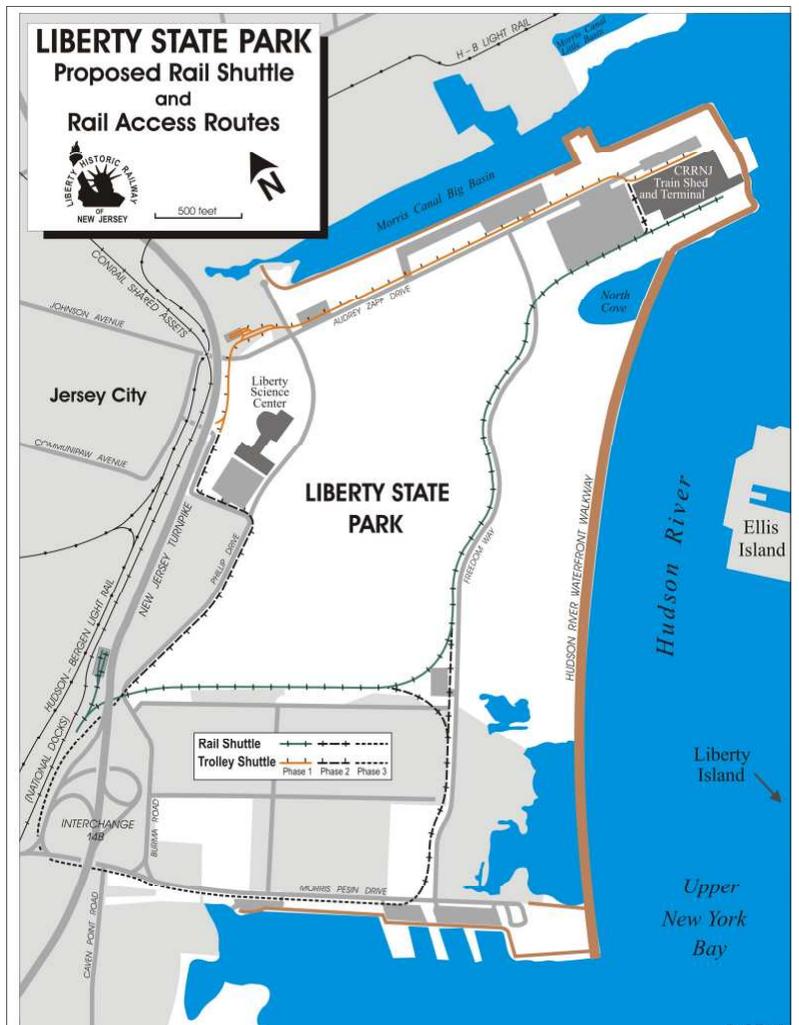


sit is sorely needed in Liberty State Park. Liberty Historic Railway, a newly formed non-profit, is also willing to help promote the much deferred restoration of the sadly deteriorated historic Train Shed, which is on the New Jersey and National Historic Registers. It is a major part of the park that has great potential to be used once again as a railway shuttle terminus as well as an educational amenity.

Why use rail? Railway tracks lay lightly on the land, can be landscaped, and their footprint does not shed rainwater runoff as do paved roads and parking lots. The open track structure allows rain to percolate through and grass to grow between the rails. Increased use of rail transport is already helping to reduce global warming and America's dependence on foreign oil. Rail is a green alternative which helps reduce pollution and will give us a more sustainable future. In the US there are about two dozen heritage trolley or small-scale streetcar systems and more than a dozen of these are being expanded. This simple, reliable form of transit from 50 or 100 years ago can bring history to life for 21st-century users. Three positives are that heritage trolleys operate at slow speeds, are pedestrian-friendly, and promote environmentally efficient use of park land. Rail shuttles will not take valuable land away from use by the public! On the contrary, rail use will avoid the paving of additional areas of the park for visitors by automobile. We know that use of Liberty State Park will grow. Managing that growth will either produce more paving or less land consumption with less intrusive rail greenways. The goal should be to get park visitors out of their cars and into rail transport.

Why use electrically powered trolley cars? Electricity produces nil pollution in its area of use. The average modern automobile uses only 15 percent of every gallon of gas put into it to actually move, compared with 90 percent efficiency of electric motors. Electricity is an open-ended energy carrier that can blend renewable energy sources with a decreasing carbon content. These sources could include solar, wind, water, biofuels, etc. - all with environmental benefits. In order to reduce global warming, America needs to move to a post-carbon mobility future. Electric public transit, like trolleys, can help! Liberty State Park can provide a model for such beneficial change. Liberty Historic Railway, Inc., wants to help Liberty State Park move into a future in which many more visitors will have to be accommodated.

What is the plan? Phase one of the planned Liberty Historic Railway single track heritage trolley shuttle would begin at Jersey City Boulevard, on the west side of Liberty Science Center, about 300 feet from the Liberty State Park Station of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail System. It would extend north along the elevated NJ Turnpike extension and cross Audrey Zapp Drive to an undeveloped plot of land at the northwest corner of Liberty State Park. In this area, in the shadow of the New Jersey Turnpike, a proposed trolley car barn and maintenance facility would be built. This area is near a contemplated future realignment of the Hudson Bergen Light Rail Line which might include a new station. Here, our planned trolley line would have a passing track. East of this point, the planned route would run along the north side of Audrey Zapp Drive, south of Liberty Landing Marina. Before reaching the Central Railroad of New Jersey Terminal, the trolley would cross Zapp Drive and terminate on the existing display track. Phase one of the planned rail shuttle to the south end of Liberty State Park would begin at the south side of the Terminal Train Shed and run along the west side of Freedom



Way to connect with Conrail along McGovern Drive, eventually reaching the planned new picnic area in Freedom Field, at the south node of the park. This will allow historic railroad equipment which once used the terminal to reach a display location under the Train Shed, when restored. The trolley shuttle would also eventually terminate under the restored Train Shed.

We need your support! Liberty Historic Railway wants to help improve Liberty State Park, the people's park, and keep it free and green. A parting thought: "Travel by rail releases from three to ten times less carbon dioxide than driving or by other modes." Please visit our website, www.LHRy.org, for more information, history, photos, maps, recommendations, and an opportunity for you to help us.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: ARE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETIES DINOSAURS?

September 19, 2010, by Linda Norris

Thanks to Karen Reeds, League liaison for Medical History Society of NJ, for bringing this article to our attention.

I began my museum career at age 14 as a volunteer at a county historical society; volunteered at a different county historical society all through college; and became director of yet a different county historical society after finishing graduate school. These are places I've spent lots of time in and I'm beginning to wonder whether they are, as a class of museums, in danger of going the way of the dinosaur. The signs are all around. Here are some headlines from a quick search:

Rensselaer County Historical Society may Close. Ceiling Portion Collapses at Oneida Historical Society. County Historical Society Struggles to Perform Mission. Wayne County (Pennsylvania) Historical Society Museum Closes Until April 15 Due to Budget Cuts.

There's no question that part of the problem is the current financial crisis affecting all non-profits. But the crisis revealed weaknesses that already existed. Every organization and every community is different, but here's a list of six factors that many have in common.

Owning a building—Historic buildings are enormously expensive, and historical societies found themselves caught in two scenarios. Either completing a huge capital project put them in a financial hole because optimistic projections said that the new building would generate new income or the buildings are at substantial risk because of decades of deferred maintenance. Could you do more if you weren't burdened by the place you own? And by the way, how interesting to the larger community is the story represented by that particular building?

The inability to say no—To say no to objects. Local historical societies are sinking in objects that have no provenance but were donated by someone because someone at the society couldn't say no. Without a collecting plan, the random rusty sad irons and white petticoats keep coming, barely cataloged and jammed into storage. Another inability--to say no to the people who say, "we've always done it this way" as a way of hindering progress.

The inability to say yes—To new ideas that is. Just the other day, I heard a complaint about how hard it is to find new board members--but this is for an organization where nothing is happening. That same board member who complained then told me that she had just accepted an additional board position--one with an organization with a clear sense of mission and vision. The inability to say yes to community members, to collaborative efforts with other organizations, to new ideas--that's a death knell.

Few connections between professional training and county historical societies—There are more and more graduates of museum training programs--but it seems like county historical societies are run by fewer and fewer of them. Part of the issue, it goes without saying, is the ability of a county historical society under financial pressure to pay a decent salary to a new MA with student loans, but I think there's sometimes a sense that local societies don't "need" staff with training. I think graduate programs need to see these places as

important, potentially vital places; boards need to see young graduates as great resources and pay them a living wage.

No sense of urgency—I just looked at the websites of several different county historical societies. On one, the latest news was from 2008; on another, under recent events, the most recent event listed was Winter Recess 2009. Does that make me think I've landed upon the site of a vital, forward looking organization that I might want to be involved with? Is the largest part of your museum taken up with a permanent exhibit that hasn't been changed in decades while changing exhibits are relegated to a grim room in the inaccessible basement?

A disconnect?—There seems to be a disconnection between community history and local historical societies. As interest in being involved in a local museum appears to decline, virtual interest increases. I'm a huge book fan of a group dedicated to my hometown and there's lively discussion and memories. Is it that we're more interested in nostalgia than history? Or does it mean that so few of us live where we grew up that we seek those connections online rather than in person? What can county historical societies do about it? How can we be about meaning and relevance in an increasingly global world?

My friend and colleague Anne Ackerson has written several posts over at Leading by Design (in Asheville, North Carolina) recently about the signs of trouble for failing organizations and a scalable way to get them back into success. Well worth reading.

There's not a single answer, but unless each county historical society takes a clear, cold, hard look at the issues they will become extinct. My thoughts in this post were framed primarily by my experience with New York State museums--and this coming week I'm headed off to the American Association for State and Local History annual conference in Oklahoma City. I look forward to some lively conversations about how organizations in other parts of the country are addressing these dilemmas. I hope my next few posts, both here and as a guest blogger for AASLH will highlight some solutions. Going to be at AASLH and want to chat about this issue (or others) in person? Just email me!

And of course, I want to hear from all of you--is your organization a dinosaur or a nimble, adaptable (bees, birds, cockroaches, for instance) and why?

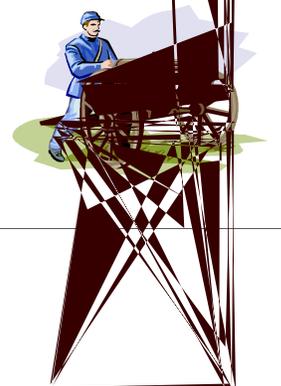
<http://uncatalogedmuseum.blogspot.com/2010/09/are-county-historical-societies.html>

Note: Linda Norris' blog on the The Uncataloged Museum, entitled "Are County Historical Societies Dinosaurs?" has received rave reviews by museum professionals, and enough feedback to warrant a follow-up blog article, "History Museums as Dinosaurs: Take 2" on her blog under "September." (<http://uncatalogedmuseum.blogspot.com>). Norris' fresh discussion of an age-old topic/issue promises to reinvigorate the discussion, challenging other professionals to "think, talk, debate, dream and wonder about their place in the world."

Blog: uncatalogedmuseum.blogspot.com; Twitter: lindabnorris; Website: riverhillpartners.com; Email: linda@riverhillpartners.com; Voice: 607-829-3501

HISTORIC CIVIL WAR PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Thanks to Kate Malcolm and Tom Genung of the Madison Historical Society for sharing this wonderful website of historic photographs: www.mikelynaugh.com/VirtualCivilWar/New/Originals2/index.html.



NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR

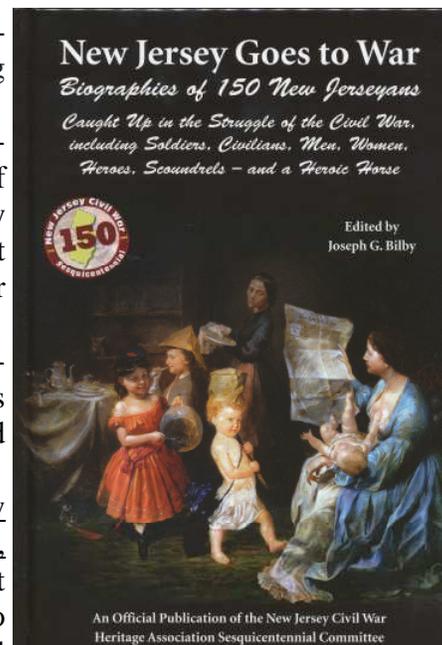
The groundbreaking **NEW JERSEY GOES TO WAR**, the first publication commemorating the 150th anniversary of New Jersey's Role During the Civil War, has been getting great reviews.

Garden State Legacy gives the book 5 out of 5 stars for excellent scholarship and states: "It is less about the battles and Generals and more a study of varied human beings who participated in this national trauma both directly and peripherally... It's so jammed packed with fascinating characters that it will entertain and enlighten even those who are not into the Civil War or military history."

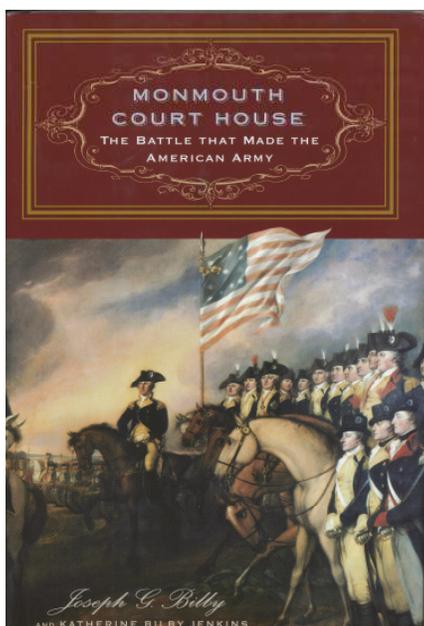
Civil War News cites: "Discussions throughout the book, suggest potential avenues for further research, and ably show the Civil War complexities to a wider audience. This book is recommended to seasoned historians and novices alike."

It's official title is New Jersey Goes to War: Biographies of 150 New Jerseyans caught up in the struggle of the Civil War, including soldiers, civilians, men, women, heroes, scoundrels—a heroic horse. If you haven't already purchased this book, please do so by going to www.njcivilwar150.org/cwenj.asp. All proceeds go directly to the NJ Civil War 150th Committee for further historical works.

The NJ 150th Committee is already planning a second publication which will be about little known New Jersey-related Civil War short stories and local New Jersey public interest accounts. Publication is due early spring 2011, in time for the start of the Sesquicentennial Civil War celebration. Visit www.njcivilwar150.org, a subcommittee of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, Inc., www.njcivilwar.org.



NEW JERSEY FATHER-DAUGHTER TEAM AUTHORS NEW BOOK ON THE BATTLE OF MONMOUTH COURT HOUSE



The battle of Monmouth Court House, fought across the fields and streams west of Freehold, New Jersey on June 28, 1778, is among the most important engagements in the history of the American army. Well known in American folklore as the fight where Molly Pitcher served an artillery piece alongside her fallen husband, the struggle at Monmouth dramatically transformed the image of the George Washington's army in both Europe and America from that of a rag-tag band of ill-trained civilians to a disciplined and professional military organization. The new book *Monmouth Court House: The Battle that Made the American Army* (Westholme Publishing, Yardley, PA, 2010), by Joseph G. Bilby of **Wall Township** and Katherine Bilby-Jenkins of **Trenton** provides a fresh look at the often overlooked battle itself and the war in New Jersey for which it provided a pivotal point. The book is the first comprehensive treatment of Monmouth Court House since William Stryker's ground breaking study, posthumously published almost a century ago.

In June 1778, following the French intervention in the American War for Independence, British General Henry Clinton's army evacuated Philadelphia and struck out across "the Jerseys" on its way back to New York City. George

Washington's Continental Army, retrained and confident after enduring a winter at Valley Forge and supplemented by the New Jersey militia, marched in pursuit. The armies clashed sporadically along the route, culminating in an all out battle on June 28 at Monmouth Court House, about 50 miles south of New York, in the last major Revolutionary War battle in the north. Although a tactical draw, Monmouth marked the first time in the war that the Continental Army was able to hold a battlefield position at the close of hostilities, fighting the full force of the British army to a standstill. The authors tell the story of the battle, how it came to be, and its influence on the course of the war and American history.

Monmouth Court House sets the battle within the context of the American Revolution and the civil war between Loyalists and Patriots that erupted in Monmouth County during that time. The entire campaign and battle are described, including the story of the war in New Jersey up to that date, and the commanders, personnel, organization, training, and weapons of both armies are analyzed. The book also assesses the historiography and folklore of the battle, including the story of the real "Molly Pitcher," the use of the battleground as Civil War muster-in camp, the frustrating nineteenth century attempts to memorialize what happened there, the field's eventual status as Monmouth Battleground State Park, and current efforts at interpretation and battlefield archaeology and how they have changed our understanding of the fighting west of Freehold so many years ago.

It is available through major bookstores like Barnes & Noble and Borders, on Amazon and also at the Monmouth Battlefield State Park bookstore as well as directly from the publisher.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: JOSEPH G. BILBY, a Wall Township resident, received his BA and MA degrees in history from Seton Hall University. Mr. Bilby, who is assistant curator of the National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey in Sea Girt, served as a lieutenant in the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam and is author of many books on military and New Jersey history, including titles from Westholme, Longstreet House and The History Press. **KATHERINE BILBY JENKINS**, who lives in Trenton, received her BA in history from Fordham University and MA in history from Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. She currently works for the state of New Jersey.

WICKED MONMOUTH COUNTY

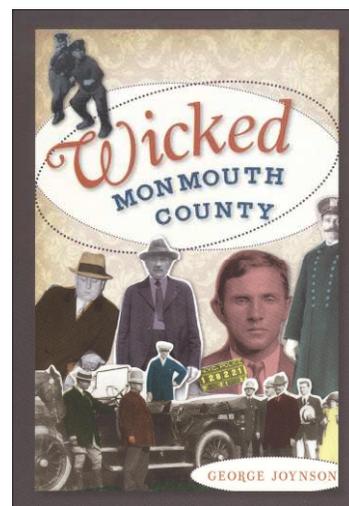
"Dig a little deeper into Monmouth County sandy shores and you'll find some very sordid secrets!"

During the early 1900s, Monmouth County saw more than its fair share of crime. This book is about local history, law and order, and chaos. It recounts the lives and careers of three Monmouth County detectives during Prohibition and the Great Depression. Detectives Jacob Rue, William Mustoe and Harry Crook spent much of their time investigating murders, arresting gangsters, chasing down leads in the Lindbergh baby kidnapping, and sometimes, they crossed the line themselves.

There is plenty of intrigue for readers of true crimes, including several unsolved 'who-dun-it' cases that remain open to this day.

Have ancestors from Monmouth? Check the searchable on-line book index to see if someone you know or are related to is mentioned! It will be an excellent addition to all genealogy libraries throughout the United States, to people with ties to Monmouth County, true crime buffs, and everyone researching their ancestral roots. Joynson's method of thorough research is evident in this narrative book. It includes over 60 pictures and several appendices and is indexed for easy reference.

Wicked Monmouth County is published by The History Press, Charleston, SC. The publishers released the book to the public on July 27, 2010. Interested? Get your copy today! Order an autographed copy of *Wicked Monmouth County* direct from the author for \$20 + \$4 shipping. George Joynson, 9 Ardmore Place, Holmdel NJ 07733; gj@gjoynson.com.



LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS....



To the League:

I just wanted to let you know that these posts are wonderful! They provide the best overview of the range of available activities in the most direct fashion that I have seen. Thank you for providing this valuable reminder of why no one should stay home in New Jersey.

All the best, Susan P. Coen

To the League:

I read about 80% of this newsletter and I am going to go back for a review. It is well done and really informative. I am excited to be learning about our State history and culture with such a wonderful group. Thank you. Karen Kubulak

To the League:

Thank you for posting events. I know at least one couple came out to an event we had on Sunday having seen it in one of your email blasts.

Regards, Deborah

Thank you for putting these emails together. They are quite remarkable in scope and informative!!
Mark Else

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

March 26, 2011	Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc.
June 4, 2011	Metlar-Bodine House, Piscataway, Middlesex County
October 2011	Chinkchewunska Chapter of the DAR, Sussex, 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, 908-722-7428, barths@att.net, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area. **We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MUSEUM CLOSURE

The Butler Museum in Morris County will be closing on January 15, 2011 for major renovations. The former New York, Susquehanna, and Western Railroad Station is in need of extensive repair work and received funding from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust and the Borough of Butler to complete the work. The facility will be closed for most of the year. Estimates range from eight to ten months.

At this time, the staff is unsure if any personnel can enter the station during construction. If anyone needs to contact the museum, please call 973-838-7222 at any time and your messages will be answered. We look forward to our grand reopening next year and hope that you will stop in for a visit.

Peggy Spranzani, Co-Chairperson. The Butler Museum, One Ace Road (mailing address), Butler, NJ 07405; 973-838-7222; www.butlermuseumnj.org; butlermuseumnj@optonline.net.



HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS — 2011

Through February 2011 -- Ongoing exhibit, The Combat Paper Project, which utilizes art-making workshops to assist veterans in reconciling and sharing their personal experiences and broadening the traditional narrative surrounding service and the military culture. Project artists will have their own art pieces on display. Regular admission applies to the exhibit. . New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation and Vietnam Era Educational Center, 1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733, located off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel, NJ; 732.335.0033.

Liberty Hall exhibit through June 30 – Union County—*Stitches in Time: Three Centuries of Hemlines, Necklines and Everything in Between*. This exhibit features an array of fashion from Liberty Hall Museum's vast collection of material culture from the late 18th century to the mid 20th century. These gowns, shoes, accessories, and evening attire are genuine historical artifacts representing styles and taste from three centuries of American life and include an 1890s gown designed by Charles Worth, lady's slippers from 1780, several Louis Vuitton trunks and Christian Dior gowns from the early 1950s. Forty dressed mannequins will be on display through the different rooms, as well as a special section titled *Victorian Secrets*, which includes a display of different undergarments from our collection spanning three centuries. Admission includes museum tour: \$10, adults; \$6, seniors and children ages 3-11; free, children under 3 and LHM members. Open Monday-Saturday, 10-4.

January 20-23; 27-30 – “Tuesdays with Morrie,” an Algonquin Arts Theatre production. Based on the best-selling book by Mitch Albom, "Tuesdays with Morrie" is a magical chronicle of the profound relationship of Mitch Albom and his college professor from nearly twenty years prior. Through Mitch, Morrie Schwartz shares his lasting gift with the world. 173 Main Street, Manasquan 08736; www.algonquinarts.org; boxoffice@algonquinarts.org; 732-528-9211.

Friday and Saturday, January 28-29 – Cape May County—The Looking Glass Mysteries: The Corpse Had a Mind of Its Own: Designed by Shadow Stalkers, the Looking Glass Mysteries is a series of nonstop, think-on-your-feet investigations into some very unusual crimes. In *The Corpse*, Doktor Gregor had assumed room temperature and he should have stayed that way. Why has the corpse apparently moved since the first police arrived on the scene? Participants may investigate this case as any detective or villain they choose (Columbo, Charlie Chan, Clouseau and a host of femme fatales) or you may simply be yourself. Sign up for a weekend-long adventure looking for clues and explanations as you thread your way through a maze of poisons and red herrings. For information or to book your weekend package, contact the participating inns: The Bedford Inn, 609-884-4158, 866-215-9507, www.bedfordinn.com; The Carroll Villa, 609-884-9619, 877-275-8452, www.carrollvilla.com; The Queen Victoria Bed & Breakfast, 609-884-8702, www.queenvictoria.com.

Sign up now for the April 2 Metlar-Bodine Auction Dinner—Middlesex County—The Fellowship for Metlar House, the members group for the Metlar-Bodine House, Piscataway Township's cultural and historical museum, will host its 20th anniversary Auction Dinner to benefit this state and national historic site. For this 20th year, the theme is "We're ROARING Into Our TWENTIES." The dinner will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011, at the Radisson Hotel, 21 Kingsbridge Road, Piscataway. Reservations for the event must be received no later than March 19, 2011. Auction preview, 5 to 6 pm. Activities include live and silent auctions, cocktails, dinner, and live entertainment. Tickets, \$80; all proceeds go to the museum. A commemorative ad journal will provide another chance to participate in this major fundraising event. "For this special occasion, we encourage everyone to dress up in Roaring Twenties period costumes. The Metlar-Bodine House, 1281 River Road, Piscataway. For reservations, call 732-463-8363. For information, visit the museum at www.facebook.com/MetlarBodineHouseMuseum.

Saturday, February 5 – Monmouth County—“Chosin” Documentary Film Screening—Reserve Marines have produced "Chosin," a documentary chronicling an epic battle of the Korean War, often called the Forgotten War. Discussion to follow with Marines. 1:00 pm. New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial Foundation and Vietnam Era Educational Center, 1 Memorial Lane, P.O. Box 648, Holmdel, NJ 07733, located off the Garden State Parkway at exit 116 in Holmdel, NJ; 732.335.0033.

Thursday, February 10—Morris County—George Washington Inaugural Buttons - Ann Wilson will display several commemorative buttons and talk about their significance – just in time for George's birthday. Refreshments will be served. 7:00 pm. Mt. Tabor Historical Society, P.O. Box 271, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878-0271. Programs are held at the Bethel, along Trinity Park, behind the Tabernacle. For directions, go to www.mounttabornj.org or call 973-586-1564; mths@mounttabornj.org.

Saturday-Sunday, February 19 and 20 – Cape May County—Crafts and Antiques in Winter: The region's most sought-after antique dealers and craftspeople come together for a two-day show featuring an array of handmade items, country antiques, glassware, silver, furniture and more. Cape May Elementary School, 921 Lafayette St. 10 am to 4 pm. Admission: \$1, free for children 12 and under. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC). For more information or to purchase tickets, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Saturday, February 19 - Somerset County—Celebrate George Washington's Birthday with "the cup that cheers." Stacy Roth's unusual costumed presentation of tea lore, history, songs, poetry on "*REVOLUTIONARY TEA*," sponsored by the

Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage Association, will be held in the hall of the Reformed Church at Finderne, 581 Wharton Avenue, Bridgewater at 4 pm. Reservations, teacup, and saucer required. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance. Make checks payable to the WHODP Association, P. O. Box 225, Somerville, NJ 08876. Include email or phone information so that we may confirm your reservation. For information: wallacehousefriends@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 19 – Cape May County—Cape May Wine Trail: Spend the afternoon visiting Cape May County's wineries and sampling the unique flavors of each. First enjoy lunch at the Jackson Mountain Café on the Washington Street Mall; then take the trolley shuttle to Natali Vineyards and Hawk Haven Vineyard & Winery, where you'll learn about viticulture and visit the tasting rooms. \$60 per person, includes lunch, wine tastings at each vineyard and a wine tasting glass. Limited event, reserve early! 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC). For more information, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Saturday, February 19 – Cape May County—Murder at the Physick Estate: Lives are in danger, and one of them could be yours during "Murder at the Physick Estate," written by Ray Crew. You are invited to attend (if you dare!). Was it the butler? Could it have been the maid? A terrible crime has been committed inside the estate and it's up to you unlock the mystery. Interact with a cast of likely suspects and look for clues, as you try to solve the mystery. Afterwards, meet the performers over coffee and dessert in the Carriage House Tearoom & Café. 6:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Adults \$25; children (ages 3-12) \$20. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC). For more information, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Sunday, February 20 – Cape May County—"Can I Get a Witness?" Exhibit Panel Discussion. See Jan.16 for details.

Macculloch Hall exhibit opens February 20—*Early American Silversmiths* in the upstairs gallery of the Museum. The exhibition opens on Sunday February 20, 2011 and will run through October 30, 2011. The exhibit focuses on the three centers of American silver making in the 18th century. Boston, New York and Philadelphia silversmiths will be featured exploring the master/apprentice relationships between the makers. Macculloch Hall's collection will compliment objects on loan from private collectors to features pieces made by such renowned makers as Paul Revere, Jr of Boston, Myer Myers of New York, and Joseph Richardson, Sr. of Philadelphia.

Monday, February 21 – Monmouth County—Join us at the Historic Village at Allaire as we celebrate the birth of the Father of Our Country. Tour the homes of the historic village as the residents prepare for a Birthnight Ball and explain the customs of the time. Visit the home of the Howell Works Manager as the ladies of the household prepare authentic 19th-century Washington's Birthday celebration recipes and learn why engravings of George and Martha Washington hang on the wall of the front parlor. Listen to speeches and toasts given in honor of the First President at this family-oriented event. 12:00-3:00; program at 1:00. The Allaire Village Auxiliary and its parent organization, the non-profit Allaire Village Inc., raise funds to support The Historic Village at Allaire, located in Allaire State Park on Route 524/Atlantic Ave., in Farmingdale, Monmouth County, off Exit 98 of the Garden State Parkway and off Exit 31B of Interstate 195. For more information, contact the Historic Village at Allaire office Monday through Friday, from 9-5 at 732-919-3500 or visit our website at www.allairevillage.org.

Saturday, February 26—Morris County. Colonial Cooking Contest. Register by Friday, February 18. Research a historic recipe, cook it and enter it in the museum's 2nd annual Colonial Cooking Contest. Participants are asked to use a recipe from Early American times (cookbooks and recipes are available at the museum) and make it as close as possible to the original recipe. Dishes will be judged and awards granted. Children's (12 and under) & Family division will take place at 10 am; adult division, 2 pm. Space is limited. 10-5. Call 973-377-2982 x14 to register or for more information. \$5 registration fee (includes museum admission) and regular admission for all others. Museum Coordinator, 973-377-2982 x14; coordinator@metc.org. Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main St, Madison.

Monday, February 28 –Morris County—Happy Birthday Widget! Celebrate the birthday of our mascot, Widget the Beaver. Join us at the museum for an afternoon (4-5 pm) of fun beaver activities and birthday goodies. Appropriate for children 2-6 years old. Advance registration recommended; call 973-377-2982 x12 for more information. \$3 admission/person. The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison 07940; 973-377-2982 x10 or visit our website at www.metc.org.

Sunday, March 6—Union County—Jersey Central Train Show, Mother Seton School, Clark, NJ. Jersey Central Railway Historical Society, Inc., PO Box 700, Clark NJ 07066; www.jcrhs.org.

Thursday, March 10 –Morris County. Greasy Luck: Stories of a New England Whalerman, with storyteller David Emerson. Refreshments will be served. Mt. Tabor Historical Society, P.O. Box 271, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878-0271. Programs are held at the Bethel, along Trinity Park, behind the Tabernacle; 7:00 pm. For directions go to www.mounttabornj.org or

call 973-586-1564; mths@mounttabornj.org.

Friday and Saturday, March 11-12—The Looking Glass Mysteries: The Problem of Remington's Mummy. You'll unravel the case of Remington's famous 'bad luck' mummy. Is it truly cursed? Why have several international pharmaceutical firms tried to quietly acquire ownership of the remains? And who--or what--caused the death of Professor Eldridge? Guests will once again be able to portray their favorite detectives or villains or simply arrive as themselves...with a flair for Egyptology or murder, of course. Sign up for a weekend-long adventure looking for clues and explanations as you thread your way through a maze of poisons and red herrings. For information or to book your weekend package, contact the participating inns: The Bedford Inn, 609-884-4158 or 866-215-9507; www.bedfordinn.com; The Carroll Villa, 609-884-9619, 877-275-8452, www.carrollvilla.com; The Queen Victoria Bed & Breakfast, 609-884-8702, www.queenvictoria.com.

Sunday, March 13 – Mercer County—The Trenton Contemporary will present a luncheon fashion show at noon at the Trenton Country Club, with fashions by Lord & Taylor. There will also be an auction of gift baskets and door prizes. For information or to purchase tickets call 609-298-6529 or contact Lucia DiPolvere at LUEDIP@aol.com.

Friday-Sunday, March 18-20—Cape May County—Sherlock Holmes Weekend. Sherlock Holmes and the Case of The Surreptitious Ghoul! Join Holmes and Watson as they explore the Gothic Habitants of Underground London Society (G.H.O.U.L.S. for short). Our duo will need your help as they peer deep into the darkness and face the fears that lie within. Get into the spirit of things by donning Victorian attire. Stalk the gaslit streets in search of clues and compete for the \$250 grand prize and a variety of other valuable gifts as you attempt to solve the mystery. Full weekend packages are available at \$180 per couple or \$95 per person and include the welcome reception, performances, tour, luncheon and gift. Weekend overnight packages are also available. The Search for Clues tour on Saturday, March 19, can be purchased separately. Sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts & Humanities (MAC). For more information, call 609-884-5404 or 800-275-4278 or visit www.capemaymac.org.

Saturday, March 19—League tour of Union County historic sites. See story on page one.

Saturday, March 26—Hunterdon County—Black River Railroad Historic Trust Train Show & Sale, Elks Club, Route 31 South, Flemington; www.brwrr.com.

Sunday, March 27—Morris County—Erie Lackawanna Railway Historical Society Spring Meet, Holiday Inn, 707 Route 46, Parsippany 07054; 973-263-2000.

Saturday and Sunday, April 2-3 – Morris County—Pysanky Workshop, time to be announced. Learn the ancient art of Pysanky, Ukrainian egg decorating, with Odarka Stockert & Marie Seilus. Participants will get a hands-on experience using the unique techniques needed to create these colorful masterpieces. Pre-registration required; call 973-377-2982 x14. Museum Coordinator, coordinator@metc.org; 973-377-2982 x14. Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison, NJ 07940; www.metc.org.

Saturday, April 2—Morris County—Friends of the New Jersey Transportation Heritage Center's 21st Annual Symposium at Drew University, Madison. For details, visit www.LHRy.org; www.njthc.org.

April 4-24 – Ocean County—Celebrate! A spectacular month long fine art show and sale, a traditional arts show and sale plus a celebration of creative expression which includes artists, drama, poetry and music along ...with classes and demonstrations of South Jersey folk arts for both children and adults. 10am to 5pm. Tuckerton Seaport, 120 West Main St., Tuckerton, NJ, 609-296-8868; www.TuckertonSeaport.org.

Saturday, April 9 – Morris County—Family Fun Day, 1-3 pm. Join us at the museum for lots of family fun and a craft activity. Advance registration recommended; call 973-377-2982 x12. Regular admission. The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison 07940; 973-377-2982 x10 or visit us at www.metc.org.

Thursday, April 14—Morris County—Over Here Molly Pitcher. Stacy Roth highlights the lives of women during the American Revolution. Refreshments will be served. Mt. Tabor Historical Society, P.O. Box 271, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878-0271. Programs are held at the Bethel, along Trinity Park, behind the Tabernacle. 7:00 pm. For directions: 973-586-1564 or visit www.mounttabornj.org; mths@mounttabornj.org. Mt. Tabor Historical Society, P.O. Box 271, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878.

Saturday, April 16—League tour of historic sites in Newark, plus the Cherry Blossom Festival. See story, page 1.

Thursday, May 12—Morris County—Victorian Games and Toys, presented by the Morris County Historical Society. You are invited to bring your own period games and toys to share. Refreshments will be served. 7:00 pm. Mt. Tabor Historical Society, P.O. Box 271, Mt. Tabor, NJ 07878-0271. Programs are held at the Bethel, along Trinity Park, behind

the Tabernacle. For directions go to www.mounttabornj.org or call 973-586-1564; mths@mounttabornj.org.

Saturday, May 14—League tour of Haddonfield/Camden area. See story on page one.

Sunday, May 15—Hudson County—“Tug Boats of the Hudson,” by Mitch Dakelman, Central RR of NJ, Jersey City Terminal, Blue Comet Room, Liberty State Park, 1:00 p.m. 201-915-3440; www.jcrhs.org.

Friday, June 10 – Morris County - Downtown Concert Series, 6–8 pm. Bring a blanket or chair for a free family-friendly outdoor concert on the lawn of the museum. For more information call 973-377-2982 x14 or visit our website at www.metc.org. Rain or Shine! In case of inclement weather, concert will be held inside the museum on a first come, first served basis. FREE! Museum Coordinator, coordinator@metc.org; 973-377-2982 x14. Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison, NJ 07940; www.metc.org.

June 18—League walking tour of historic Trenton. See story on page one.

June 17-19—Hunterdon County—The Milford Borough Historical Society, the Borough of Milford, and other local organizations will host a three-day festival to commemorate **Milford's 100th anniversary**. Activities include a time-line reenactment camp that will enable visitors to see what the lives of soldiers and civilians were like in prehistory and during the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Milford is a small, close-knit community, making it the perfect setting for a weekend family activity without the large crowds. Along with regular camp and living history activities, military reenactors will engage in skirmishing and tactical demonstrations. Also, because this is a time-line event, there will be opportunities to meet with individuals from many different eras. If you would like to participate in this event or know someone who might be interested, please visit us at www.milfordnjhistory.org for the online registration form and more information. The event is free of charge for participants and the general public.

Friday, June 24—Morris County—Downtown Concert, 6-8 pm—Bring a blanket or chair for a free family-friendly outdoor concert on the lawn of the museum. For more information call 973-377-2982 x14 or visit our website at www.metc.org. Rain or Shine! In case of inclement weather, concert will be held inside the museum on a first come, first served basis. FREE! Museum Coordinator, coordinator@metc.org; 973-377-2982 x14. Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison 07940.

Sunday, July 10—Hudson County—Lehigh Valley RR slide show, by Mitch Dakelman, Central RR of NJ, Jersey City Terminal, Blue Comet Room, Liberty State Park, 1:00 p.m. 201-915-3440; www.jcrhs.org.

Sunday, August 14—Hudson County—Historic Canals of NJ, by Capt. Bill McKelvey, Central RR of NJ, Jersey City Terminal, Blue Comet Room, Liberty State Park, 201-915-3440; www.jcrhs.org.

Saturday, October 29 – Morris County—Tricks-N-Treats, 1-3. Once again the museum will host a hauntingly fun Halloween themed afternoon. Come in costume and participate in a number of activities, including games and crafts. Pre-registration recommended. For more information call 973-377-2982 x12. Regular admission. The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison 07940; 973-377-2982 x10 or visit our website at www.metc.org.

Saturday, November 12 – Morris County—Family Fun Day, Saturday, November 12th 1 PM - 3 PM Join us at the Museum for lots of family fun and a craft activity. Advance registration recommended; call 973-377-2982 x12. Regular Admission. The Museum of Early Trades & Crafts, 9 Main Street, Madison 07940; 973-377-2982 x10 or visit our website at www.metc.org.

AWARD-WINNING MEMBER MUSEUM

For the second time in a row, the Township of Ocean Historical Museum has been voted the “Best Museum in Monmouth County” in the annual Asbury Park Press poll.

The members of the museum are very pleased to know that all of the hard work accomplished by the volunteers has been recognized. If you have not yet visited the museum, go and see for yourself. It is located at 703 Deal Road in Oakhurst. Tuesday-Wednesday, 1:00 to 4:00; Thursdays, 1:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 pm; first and second Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.



AUTHOR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

In October the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance announced its Authors Awards for 2010. Nominated works had to have been published in 2008 or 2009 and had to reflect a new understanding of New Jersey's history and culture, evidence original research in the application of New Jersey resources, and/or reveal new insights into a topic. The committee chose the following publications:

Reference Category—Maxine Lurie, Peter O. Wacker, and Michael Siegel. *MAPPING NEW JERSEY: AN EVOLVING LANDSCAPE*, Rivergate Books (Rutgers Univ. Press), 2009.

Non-fiction, Scholarly Category—Daniel Sidorick. *CONDENSED CAPITALISM: CAMPBELL SOUP AND THE PURSUIT OF CHEAP PRODUCTION IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY*, ILR Press (Cornell Univ. Press), 2009 and Richard F. Veit and Mark Nonestied. *NEW JERSEY CEMETERIES AND TOMBSTONES: HISTORY IN THE LANDSCAPE*, Rivergate Books (Rutgers Univ. Press), 2008.

Non-fiction, Popular Category—Marc Mappen. *THERE'S MORE TO NEW JERSEY THAN THE SOPRANOS*, Rivergate Books (Rutgers Univ. Press), 2009.

Reproduction of Primary Resources Category—Anne Gossen. *PRINCETON 1783: THE NATION'S CAPITAL*, Morven Museum and Garden, 2009.

Fiction and Poetry Category—Louis J. Yampolsky. *A BOARDWALK STORY*, Plexus Publishing, 2009.

OUR MEMBERS' WONDERFUL MUSEUMS

by Linda Barth

Wow! So many of our members have outstanding museums, and I am determined to visit them. If you would like to see these unique sites, too, let me help you. I am creating a list of members' museums. I would be happy to send it to the membership.

Throughout the summer and fall I was able to visit more museums and historic sites. On August 22 the **Alice Paul Institute** sponsored Women's Equality Day to celebrate the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage. Sen. Robert Menendez, Congressman John Adler, and State Senator Diane Allen were among those who praised the work of Alice Paul and her efforts to pass the 19th amendment to the Constitution. The Alice Paul Institute is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 corporation based in Mount Laurel, New Jersey. It was founded in 1984 by a group of dedicated volunteers to commemorate the centennial of Alice Paul's 1885 birth and to further her legacy. The organization was operated by volunteers for more than a decade. Today, four staff members, as well as volunteers, oversee the daily business and special events at Paulsdale, the home of Alice Paul.

Since its inception, API has not only preserved the legacy of Alice Paul and her fellow suffragists, but also has taken a leadership role in bringing recognition to other organizations and historic sites that honor women. Visitors touring the home may be surprised to see Alice Paul's six college degrees (all originals), including one from Swarthmore (B.A. in biology, 1905), two from the University of Pennsylvania (M.A. in social work, 1907 and Ph.D. in economics, 1912), and three from American University (LL.B., 1922, LL.M., 1927, D.C.L., 1928).

My husband and I visited the **Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society Museum** to see its collection of Morris Canal postcards and photographs. The museum is headquartered in the old railroad station. Curator Lynne Ranieri explained that the town bought the station and gave it to the historical society. Lynn has accessioned a large variety of items, including an exhibit about the Boy Scouts of America, and one on Stewart Hartshorn, who moved to Short Hills in 1870. His father, his uncle, and his brother had patented the spring shade roller, which the family manufactured in New York City. Stewart Hartshorn worked to improve his father's crude spring roller and in 1864 received patent number 44,624 for a design introducing the ratchet and gravity pawl. The design was in use until the recent advent of blinds. In 1872 the New York plant was moved to East Newark, N.J.

In August we stopped to see the **Adolph Strauss Mansion**, headquarters of the **Atlantic Highlands Historical Society**. Acquired by the society in 1981 for \$26,000, the Queen Anne-style, 21-room house was built in 1893 for Mr. Strauss as a summer cottage. The society also paid \$1,500 to get back the original stained glass windows which the previous owner had taken away. The interesting tower room in the turret uses a chimney effect to provide cooling for the house. Its exhibits include a doctor's bag, trophies, and postcards. The Lenape room has a fascinating map showing many Indian sites in the area. The Philco radio still plays after eighty years! The mansion is being lovingly restored by members. When we were there, Walter Knittle was busy painting in the upstairs bedroom.

Later in August, JB Vogt and I enjoyed a lovely lunch with the folks at **DANE, the Danish Archive Northeast**. The museum, on New Durham Road in Edison, was originally a farm house, but in 1914 was opened as a home for older people of Scandinavian descent. We had never known that the Danes had settled in Perth Amboy, where they had a great influence, founding five churches and the terra cotta works. The rooms that once housed the senior citizens now have a variety of exhibits, including Victor Borge, the royal family, and maritime paintings by Antonio Jacobsen and John Pederson. Through a grant from the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, DANE created a traveling exhibit, "Storefronts & Smokestacks," a retrospective of Perth Amboy history. We encourage you to visit the museum when DANE hosts the League in the future.

NEW JERSEY CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

We at the New Jersey Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee (NJCW150 for short) are moving into high gear as the anniversary of the conflict fast approaches. It turns out that the first shots of the war were not fired at Fort Sumter in April, 1861, but at a Jerseyman in January. Look for a release on the story of John McGowan of Elizabeth in the weeks to come.



We will also be releasing our new publication on researching the Civil War veterans in your community (or your own ancestors) early in the new year. This book, by Steven Glazer of Cranford, thoroughly explains all of the latest research sources and methods to uncover the life stories of New Jersey's Civil War veterans. It will be the best research handbook on the market.

In the spring we will publish our second in a series of books containing stories of New Jerseyans at war. The first volume, "New Jersey Goes to War," covered the lives of 150 personalities, military and civilian, men and women, whose lives were affected by the conflict and who, in turn, affected its progress and outcome. The second volume, currently in the editing process, will deal with individual lives and also contain longer essays on the effect of the war on the state over one hundred years. Essay topics include debunking old myths about New Jersey and the Civil War, the Confederate General from Elizabeth, the state's industrial contribution to the Union cause, New Jersey soldiers at Gettysburg, the state's memorialization of its veterans, the Centennial Commissions principled stand for Civil Rights in 1961 -- and much more.

We will also be sponsoring our second "Camp of Instruction" living history event at Allaire State Park in the spring. The event will educate the public on how a New Jersey Civil War military unit was organized and trained before leaving for the front in 1861.



To keep updated on the Committee's publications and projects, visit us on Facebook and check our web page at www.njcivilwar150.org/index.asp.

If anyone is interested in being placed on our email list, for updates on New Jersey Civil War publications and events, or other aspects of New Jersey political and military history, please send me your name, email address and town at JGBilby44@aol.com.

Joe Bilby, Publications Editor, NJCW150

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



With our members spread across the state, many of us are not familiar with the organizations in regions far from our own. This column will spotlight our members, so that others may learn of their mission and accomplishments.

The league has many member organizations that were formed to honor or celebrate the American Revolution. This is Part II of a series highlighting those societies.

The **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NJ Association** (W3R-NJ) is a non-profit corporation formed to promote, preserve, and commemorate the march of the French and allied expeditionary forces through New Jersey; support the activities of local historical organizations; promote the goals of the National W3R Association and the National Park Service; and assist New Jersey state agencies and local organizations with similar missions. W3R-NJ members have complete access to the organization's work area, including historic maps, documents, and research reports; and they are notified of W3R-NJ planning activities, meetings, and special events.

Each spring the association holds a breakfast at the Nassau Club in Princeton; the featured guest speaker is a Revolutionary War historian. You can learn more about this organization by visiting the website, www.w3r-nj.com or writing to W3R-NJ, 442 U.S. 202-206 North, Bedminster, NJ 07921; info@w3r-nj.com.

The Rockingham Association was incorporated in 1964 as the NJ State-recognized, non-profit auxiliary organization to Rockingham State Historic Site. Rockingham was the last wartime headquarters for General Washington. He lived there in 1783, while awaiting news of the Treaty of Paris, which ended the war. In its newsletter, *The Sundial*, the Rockingham Association shares announcements of major events and programs, articles about the Colonial period, and updates regarding the site and garden. To receive a copy of the latest *Sundial* electronically, please send your request to the Rockingham Association at rmhistory1783@aol.com.

Rockingham is proud to display the Washington replica uniform, created by Dawn Fairchild, former Association Vice President. In addition, Richard & Regina Toone made many Washington military reproductions, including his camp bed, mess kit and shaving box.

The association assists the curator with tours and events. At the Mansion House, visitors tour Washington's farmhouse residence from August 1783 to November 1783 and gain a better understanding of life in the Colonial period. Each room is filled with 18th-century furnishings and artifacts. Tours may also include the Children's Museum and the kitchen garden with plants and flowers indigenous to an 18th-century farmstead. The Children's Museum, a former Colonial summer kitchen or wash building, now houses games, activities and costumes for children. For further information, please contact the Rockingham Association, P.O. Box 496, Kingston, NJ 08528; 609-683-7132; www.rockingham.net; RockinghamPR@aol.com. Or stop by for a tour: Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10, 11, 1, 2, and 3 and Sundays, 1, 2, and 3.

The North Jersey American Revolution Round Table was founded in 2008 as an outgrowth from its sister society, the North Jersey Civil War Round Table. The group's main function is to sponsor talks about all aspects of the American Revolution. Meetings typically consist of one or two lectures relating to local interest, followed by a main lecture. Many speakers talk about the military aspect of the Revolution, but the mission is by no means limited to that topic. The Revolution was not just a war; it was a radical shift in thinking about the nature of government. The organization welcomes anyone who wishes to hear discussions of the men, ideas, and events that led to the founding of American republic.

In addition, the NJAART occasionally helps to organize trips to areas of local interest. New Jersey has a wealth of local resources relating to the Revolution; often these sites are unappreciated, so trips help to provide a wider audience of visitors. For more information on this round table, contact North Jersey American Revolution Round Table, 30 Washington Place, Morristown, NJ 07960; 908-234-1509; www.NJHistoryRoundTables.org; njamerrevrt@aol.com.

**THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES WINTER MEETING HOSTED BY THE OCEAN CITY
HISTORICAL MUSEUM, INC. AT THE OCEAN CITY COMMUNITY CENTER
1735 SIMPSON AVENUE, OCEAN CITY, CAPE MAY COUNTY
SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011**

- 9:00 am Registration & continental breakfast
9:30 am League business meeting
10:15 am Music licensing with Tracy Batt, NJ Volunteer Lawyer for the Arts
10:45 am Break
11:00 am Presentation "Ocean City: Sea View & Salt Air"
11:30 am "History of Salt Water Taffy and 113 years of a Boardwalk Candy Business" with Hank Glaser of Shriver's Salt Water Taffy & Fudge
12:15 pm Lunch
1-3:00 pm Tours: Ocean City Historical Museum, Ocean City Arts Center (gallery tour of the featured Sculpture Artist, Darla Jackson), Ocean City Tabernacle (foundation of Ocean City's heritage), Life Saving Station 30 (recently saved from demolition) and a B&B/historic home. Plus a self-guided driving or walking tour of Ocean City's historic district.

Places to stay – spend the weekend!

You'll find a wide-range of hotels, motels and B&Bs in Ocean City.

* Go to www.webervations.com/magic-scripts/associations/ocnjha.asp to check availability and weekend specials

* Or, call the Ocean City Regional Chamber of Commerce at 1-800-Beach-NJ

or go to www.oceancitychamber.com

Questions before March 26: Call the Ocean City Historical Museum at 609.399.1801 or info@ocnjmuseum.org.

Questions on the morning of March 26: Call the Ocean City Free Public Library at 609.399.2434, ext. 0 for the circulation desk. Ask them to contact/connect you to the museum staff in the Lecture Hall.

REGISTRATION FORM – PLEASE RETURN BY MARCH 18th

Please include a check for \$25.00 per person, payable to Ocean City Historical Museum, Inc., and mail it to the Ocean City Historical Museum, Attn: Sandy Jost, 1735 Simpson Avenue, Ocean City, NJ 08226.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation: _____

**DIRECTIONS TO THE OCEAN CITY HISTORICAL MUSEUM, COMMUNITY CENTER,
1735 SIMPSON AVENUE, OCEAN CITY, 08226, CAPE MAY COUNTY, 609-399-1801
MARCH 26, 2011**

From the North: Please note: Bridge Closure planned January thru March -- ROUTE 52 Ocean City - Somers Point "Howard S. Stainton Memorial Causeway" Bridge closed. Follow alternate route.

Garden State Parkway South to Exit 25 toward OCEAN CITY/MARMORA. Left onto ROOSEVELT BLVD/CR-623 toward OCEAN CITY. Turn LEFT onto BAY AVE/CR-656. Turn RIGHT onto 18th Street. Continue 1 block to parking lot at 18th & Simpson.

From the South: Garden State Parkway North to Exit 25 toward OCEAN CITY/MARMORA. Merge right onto ROOSEVELT BLVD/CR-623 toward OCEAN CITY. Turn LEFT onto BAY AVE/CR-656. Turn RIGHT onto 17th Street. Continue 1 block into parking lot at 17th & Simpson.

**** Enter the Community Center on the 17th Street side of the building and proceed to the lecture hall.**

NJ HISTORICAL COMMISSION GRANTS

The New Jersey Historical Commission is preparing for the next two-year cycle of FY 2012-2013 General Operating Support (GOS) grants. For the first time, applications and Declarations of Intent will be filed electronically using the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). Declarations of Intent are due **March 1, 2011** and applications **April 5, 2011**. We are planning to make SAGE available to you in mid-January and you will receive instructions about gaining access after Christmas.

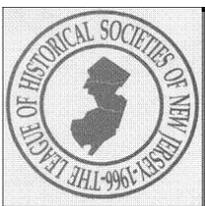
The commission strongly encourages all potential applicants to consider attending a free workshop. We will offer a series of six, statewide workshops to provide an overview of the guidelines and to demonstrate SAGE. Two sets of workshops will be provided for new and returning applicants. While both will provide detailed demonstrations of SAGE, the sessions for new applicants will provide greater detail about General Operating Support for organizations that may be less familiar with the program.

The guidelines, workshop schedule and registration information are available on the Commission's website. Visit us at www.newjerseyhistory.org. Please note that we are working to schedule two more workshops in the northern and central regions of the state and we will notify you of the dates and times as soon as the information is available. Snow dates will also become available at a later time.

The commission posts its grantees to the website on the Grants and Prizes page. As we enter the new funding cycle we are encouraging grantees who may be less familiar with the grant program to consult the list and consider contacting their colleagues for advice.

If you have questions or concerns you are free to contact me. I hope to see you in January and February at one of our workshops.

Niquole Primiani, Chief Grants and Programs Officer, New Jersey Historical Commission, 225 West State Street, POB 305, Trenton, NJ 08625-0305; Niquole.primiani@sos.state.nj.us; 609-943-3307



**The League of Historical Societies of
New Jersey
P.O. Box 909
Madison, New Jersey 07940
www.lhsnj.org**

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