



LEAGUE NEWS

The Magazine of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 50 No. 3 www.lhsnj.org September 2025

Mission Statement: To promote preservation of the historical heritage of New Jersey by stimulating among member organizations the development of programs, projects, and publications that celebrate this heritage.

League Statement of Inclusion

The League of Historical Societies welcomes all organizations and individuals with an interest in New Jersey's state and local history. Our members include historical societies, historic preservation organizations, libraries, state and local historic sites, friends of parks and historic sites, county cultural and heritage commissions, county parks, state parks, national heritage areas, archival and genealogical groups, a large variety of museums, canal societies, railroad groups, DAR chapters, lighthouse societies, history roundtables, and musical organizations, as well as interested individuals. Even if your organization does not fit one of these categories, you are welcome to join us.

Saturday, November 8, 2025
Historical Society of Chatham
Township, Chatham, Morris County
Registration and directions, p. 19-20

To Credit or Not to Credit

By Pary Tell, League Treasurer



With 30 years of banking experience behind me, and close to that many years serving on nonprofit boards, I've noticed a few things. The first is that as soon as the board finds out that you're in banking, you're automatically tapped to be treasurer. The second is that many smaller nonprofits are reluctant to use credit cards. This is a valid concern, but, as is the case with a good number of organizations paying their League dues online, someone in the group uses their personal credit card and then has to be reimbursed by the organization. (By the way, that's a practice that both the IRS and auditors frown on.) The drawbacks to applying for and using a credit card are evident. First, its use may incur interest, which is something you may not have budgeted for. Second, it allows you to accumulate debt, which also may not have been budgeted for. It also may be used

improperly by whomever has the card.

There is a simple way around this—a debit card. Just as many of you have personal debit cards, you can apply for one for your organization. This gives you the convenience of having a way to make purchases (conservation materials for your collection or supplies for a kids' program, for example) without having to try to pay by check or by using someone's personal credit card. If you've tried to buy something lately using a check, you know how frustrating it can be, and many stores won't even accept checks anymore. When you use a debit card, it immediately debits, or takes, that amount directly from your checking account, so the accounting is the same as if you used a check. In fact, using a debit card takes the money from your account even faster than waiting for the check to clear. It shows on your monthly bank statement, including where it was used, so there's no unintentional non-disclosure of purchases. There are no interest or

(continued on page six)

SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

November 8, 2025—Historical Society of Chatham Township, Chatham Township, Morris County
April 18, 2026—Ocean County Cultural & Heritage, Cedar Bridge Tavern, Barnegat, Ocean County
June 20, 2026—Proprietary House, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County
Fall 2026—Morristown and Morris Township Library, Morristown, Morris County
Spring 2027—Barnegat Light Historical Society, Barnegat Light, Ocean County
Summer 2027—Somerset County—location to be determined
Fall 2027—The Hermitage, Ho-Ho-Kus, Bergen County
Spring 2028—Sea Isle City Historical Society, Sea Isle City, Cape May 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 (2026)

Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and
Preservation Society
732-754-7019

First Vice President (2026)

Bruce Tell
Canal Society of New Jersey

Vice President, Northern (2026)

Patricia Wells
Township of Chatham Historical
Society

Vice President, Central (2026)

Donna Rafano
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Vice President, Southern (2026)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission

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Hannah Kerwin
Jamesburg Historical Association

Treasurer (2026)

Pary Tell
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

Trustee, Northern (2026)

Michelle Munn
Mount Tabor Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2028)

Eve Morawski
Washington Association of NJ

Trustee, Central (2028)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustee, Central (2026)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2026)

R. Joseph Latshaw III
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage
Commission

Trustee, Southern (2028)

Ralph Cooper

Historical Preservation Society of
Upper Township

Trustee-at-Large (2028)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

Trustee-at-Large (2026)

Donald Katz, Esq.
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2026)

James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township
Library

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

Executive Director

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

Membership Chairman

Donna Rafano

Publications Awards Committee

Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush
Kate Malcolm
Dorothy Pietrowski

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Brian Armstrong

In June, I attended the New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference in Mount Laurel. One thing that was emphasized in several of the conference presentations was the disruption in history funding since January 2025. There was much concern from every presenter about the future of New Jersey historical preservation.

A week later I was on a trip in Italy. As I walked through the city of Rome, I was in awe of the remaining ruins of the former empire. Although the ruins are impressive, these decayed monuments are also a reminder of the fall of this once successful republic/empire that lasted a thousand years before collapsing. Rome was once a city that Augustus had transformed from a city of brick into a city of marble and gold.

The fall of this great empire began due to prominent leaders fighting, which caused division in society, economic collapse, and cultural decline. What seemed permanent was quickly lost. By the year 1000, most of the marble and gold were gone and many of those that lived in the ruined city had no idea of the history of the great empire. They only knew about the bleak condition of their impoverished lifestyle.

Most of the historical records of how people lived in the Roman Empire were lost after it collapsed. Fortunately, due to a volcano burying the city of Pompei in 79 AD, we know something about Roman life. This could happen to the US. What we think is permanent, may not survive for future generations.

Our final trip destination was Venice, the once great city state. Venice ruled a maritime empire that dominated the Adriatic and Mediterranean Seas for centuries. Curiously the leaders that ultimately brought ruin to this former power were known as the DOGE.

We need to fight these cuts in funding, find other revenue sources, and make sure our leaders know the economic and cultural value of New Jersey history. Once our history is lost, it will never be found again.

DEADLINE: Submissions for the January issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 15, 2025. 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.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES

The League posed two questions to Mikie Sherrill and Jack Ciattarelli, candidates for governor in the November election. Unfortunately, only Mikie chose to submit answers.

1. The state will spend up to \$90 million to create yet another state park, The Greenway (formerly the Essex-Hudson Greenway), at a time when many of our current parks and historic sites are lacking in basic maintenance. All of our state parks are in desperate need of funding. There is a backlog in maintenance of over \$600,000,000. In many of our parks, the size of the staff has dwindled to half of its size in the 1990s. How will you provide the millions in funding to bring our parks up to par with surrounding states and pay for this new park, especially when federal funding for this type of project does not seem to be a priority?

Mikie Sherrill's answer:

New Jersey's parks are gems of the Garden State, providing recreation opportunities and wildlife habitats, and I will always fight to protect and preserve our open spaces. I support allocating necessary funds toward our parks and the goal of meeting the national average of spending per capita. After years of underinvestment, we now have a large backlog of needed improvement projects, delayed routine maintenance, and poorer resident experiences for those who visit our state's treasured parks. In Congress, I proudly led passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, which permanently funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund and addresses the large backlog of maintenance projects for our nation's national parks, including the Delaware Water Gap, the Great Swamp, and Sandy Hook here at home. I also secured millions in federal aid for the Borough of Madison to purchase and preserve the Drew Forest, a critical resource for the community. As governor, I will continue to fight to ensure our parks are preserved for the next generation of New Jerseyans to enjoy.

2. The federal government has cut funding for the Institute for Library and Museum Services (ILMS), which supports and funds projects that enhance education, economic, workforce, and heritage opportunities in the U.S. The ILMS provides assistance for many of the League's member organizations. How do you propose funding our museums and libraries?

Mikie Sherrill's answer:

Museums and libraries provide critical services to schools, students, and parents. I know how much families across New Jersey, including my own, rely on their programming and resources. Donald Trump's budget cuts, which Jack Ciattarelli fully supports, are devastating to our local communities. That's why I will appoint an Attorney General who is laser-focused on fighting these cuts and clawing back our federal tax dollars. We've seen successful challenges to the administration's cuts, and I intend to do the same as governor. This stands in stark contrast with my opponent, who says he won't take the administration to court. I fought to increase funding for the Institute of Library and Museum Services in Congress, and I'll work with our federal delegation to protect New Jersey's fair share of tax dollars. As governor, I will also invest directly into our museums and libraries to ensure that these federal cuts don't harm access to critical services for New Jersey families.

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Sea Isle City Historical Museum

Sea Isle City was founded by Charles K. Landis in 1882. Landis' vision for his new town was based on his recent visit to Venice, Italy. What a way to start!

From that point on, Sea Isle's legacy has been based on the rare aspect of the number of families that were part of the fabric of the founding of the city whose descendants have remained here in an unbroken line for over 100 years. For example, the Dever Family can trace its roots to the surveyor who worked with Landis for the original purchase of the island. The ancestors of other families who arrived at Ellis Island made their way to Sea Isle based on the amount of money they had in their pocket.

To commemorate the special link, our museum contains dozens of binders created by the families to share their journey and appreciation for this special island. During the summer, we welcome numerous visitors who spent their childhoods here working and playing with the families recognized in these binders. Invariably visitors will have connections with our staff and other visitors underscoring a core value of the museum—keeping alive the memories and values of the people who have lived and vacationed on this special barrier island.

We have learned that many of those who visit the museum can trace their families' trips to Sea Isle for decades and regularly donate keepsakes, mementos, and historically important artifacts to share with others. From a family cradle to an old-time school desk, to Prohibition whiskey bottles found washed up on the beach, to the wedding gowns of Sea Isle City brides, the museum reflects the times and relationships that make our special island unique.

Please visit us in person or our website. We are located on the first floor of the Sea Isle City Library, 4800 Central Avenue, and we are open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., March through December and on Saturdays in the summer from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Our website is www.seaislemuseum.com.



The garden statue of Neptune is from the late 1800s and was in Charles K. Landis' personal garden!!



The carousel horse is believed to be the only surviving hand-craved wooden horse from the famed carousel along our boardwalk that was destroyed in the storm of '62.

(continued on page five and six)

Mahwah Museum

The Mahwah Museum was founded in 2001; at that time, the Mahwah Historical Society's collections were transferred to and formed the foundation of the museum as we know it today. The Mahwah Museum preserves and presents the history of the community and its connection to the region. The museum offers a series of programs and events, both in person and virtual, including Gallery Talks presented by volunteers who have researched and created the exhibits, a lecture series featuring programs related to local history given by distinguished amateur and professional historians, and workshops on topics relevant to the museum's mission. In addition, small group tours are offered for schools, scouts, and other interested groups.

The museum's collection of artifacts, photographs, historical records, and documents are carefully preserved, documented, and cataloged and are available by appointment to historians and researchers.

Two of our current exhibits are described below.

"Somewhere in Fardale"



Fardale is the faraway section of Mahwah Township with a very long history of farms, family, firemen, forests, and fun. Our "Somewhere in Fardale" exhibit features fascinating details of family ancestry for several of Mahwah's oldest families -- Ackerman, Pulis, Youngs, Hopper, Storms, Valentine, and Barbour. Buried within this family ancestry are fascinating stories and connections to some of history's largest stories, like the Titanic ship design engineer, a hairdressing connection to Mary Martin of Peter Pan fame, and a British Royal Navy woman decoder and driver for Princess Elizabeth during WWII.

Then there is the curious fun fact of Fardale's name origin: it's Fireman's Bazaars and Fairs, including rodeos, Cow Town, and featured appearances by famed chimp, J. Fred Muggs. Don't miss the curious connection to singer/songwriter Cindy Lauper's "Time after Time" music video.

Seventh-generation descendant Warren Storms lends facts, beautiful early 1900s photographs, unique tools, and artifacts that create an in-depth display. Also included is an adjacent display of Warren Storms' own whimsical, wire and metal, welded kinetic sculptures. Don't miss the fantastic flying creatures and flying machines.

"Somewhere in Fardale" will be on view from September 2025 to June 2026 at the Mahwah Museum, 201 Franklin Turnpike, Mahwah, New Jersey. www.mahwahmuseum.org. For hours and information, see our website or call 201-512-0099.

"The Gilded Age in the Ramapo Valley"

"The Gilded Age in the Ramapo Valley" opens in the fall of 2025. Travel back in time to discover how a quiet agricultural town was transformed by wealthy New York power brokers who built mansions, factories, and world-class farms and stockyards. Through historical maps, period costumes, photographs, and rare artifacts, the exhibit explores what Mahwah was like, who lived there, and how life changed during the dramatic years between 1870 and 1900. Once the railroad put Mahwah on the map, the bankers, industrialists, and inventors who established grand country estates brought technological change, new immigrants, and innovations that reshaped the town—leaving a legacy still visible today.



Jamesburg Historical Association

Jamesburg, a borough in southern Middlesex County incorporated in 1887, is named after eminent resident James Buckelew (image at top of next page), who moved to the area in 1832 to take ownership of the gristmill by the Manalapan Brook. His many business interests, including farming, a stagecoach line, cranberry bogs, banking,

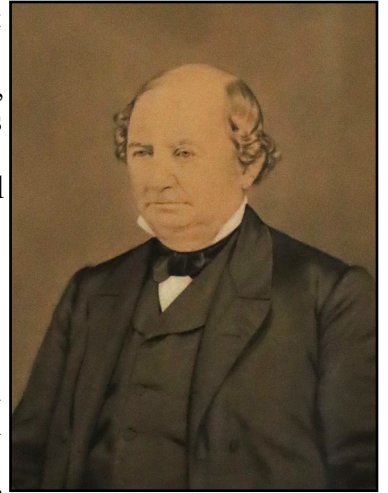
and the Camden and Amboy Railroad, made Buckelew well known throughout the state.

When a local African American student was denied school admission in 1847, Buckelew built a new school open to all children. Derived from the school's informal name of "The James B.," the community became "Jamesburg."

The Buckelew residence (below), a house that came along with the mill business, dates to the early 1700s and possibly earlier, before there was a mill. Originally a single room, it is among the oldest surviving homes in New Jersey. Buckelew added two stories and a conservatory in the mid-1800s.

By 1977, the Buckelew Mansion, called "Lakeview," was deteriorating. This prompted a group of citizens to form the Jamesburg Historical Association (JHA), dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of the community. JHA acquired and restored the mansion to its former glory and successfully applied to have it listed on the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places.

James Buckelew played a small role in American history by providing a



carriage (photo below), four horses and a coach driver to transport President-elect Abraham Lincoln from the Trenton train station to the State House on February 21, 1861. JHA arranged to have the "Lincoln Coach" returned from Trenton and restored. The coach is now on display inside the conservatory.



For decades, JHA hosted annual tours of the mansion on James Buckelew's birthday (August 13) and at Christmastime. This tradition was suspended because of extensive weather damage to the property after several storms. Though the house is closed, JHA currently engages the community by holding outdoor events, such as an evening of Spooky Stories in October and a holiday tree decorating fundraiser in December.



Visitors gather outside for an evening of Spooky Stories.



To Credit or Not to Credit (continued from page one)

fees associated with a debit card, so no need to budget for those. And lastly, it's convenient. Most debit cards are accepted at any vendor that takes Visa or Mastercard. The League currently has two people with League debit cards and they're mainly used for postage and supplies (think stamps and envelopes).

Letters, we get letters...

Thank you for advertising our sofa. As a result, a Cultural & History group will not only be taking the blue sofa, but a few other pieces we have in storage as well. This has helped me out tremendously.

— Gina Rosseland, Warren County Cultural & Heritage Affairs



Blink: An Affordable Security System By Joe Ciccone

The Lawrence Historical Society has maintained the Port Mercer bridgetender's house since the late 1970s. We host multiple events annually, including a popular walking tour of the Port Mercer historic district in the spring. We also participate in D&R Canal Watch's annual Canal House Challenge each fall.

In the summer of 2024, the Port Mercer bridgetender's house was vandalized. Someone broke through our back door, sprayed a fire extinguisher, and made a mess. The police surmise the intruders were teenagers. We were very fortunate that the damage wasn't more extensive. Nothing was stolen. In the more than 45 years that we have maintained the house, this is the first time we experienced a break-in. But once was more than enough.

Due to state restrictions, the society does not have a full-time caretaker, so there is not an onsite presence to dissuade would-be intruders. We spoke with the police about our need for improved security and our very limited funds. They recommended a solution: **Blink**.

Blink is a wireless security system owned by Amazon. Cameras sell for about \$70, while cameras with floodlights sell for about \$130. Both types are motion-activated and include two-way communication. The cameras only take a few minutes (and a couple of screws) to install and are battery-operated. Once you install the cameras, you simply need to purchase an annual subscription, which costs about \$100, and connect

your cameras to the internet. When the cameras detect motion, the system alerts anyone with a subscription and records the activity.

In our case, we installed cameras with floodlights facing our front and back doors and smaller cameras inside the house facing the front and back doors. Our hope is that if someone tries to break into the house, they would be scared off by the floodlights, but if they proceeded inside the house, the interior cameras would capture images of their faces. Society officers access our Blink cameras via their cell phones and receive alerts if the system detects motion within range of the cameras.

So far, Blink is proving to be a very affordable, effective system for monitoring our historic home and, hopefully, preventing a recurrence of the awful event from the summer of 2024.



Kevin Hale Publications Awards for 2024

SOUTH RIVER HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION NEWS

Number 125, September 2024



Next Meeting: September 25

Uncovering
Middlesex County
History: The 1918
Influenza Pandemic

A 2018 ground penetrating radar survey of a corner of Washington Monument Cemetery long associated with the 1918 pandemic revealed over 350 unmarked burials. Mark Nonestied, Middlesex County Historian, will discuss the survey, the pandemic, and the people buried in the zone surveyed. Join us at 7:00 p.m. at the South River Museum, 64-66 Main Street. Light refreshments will be served.

Museum Hours

The South River Museum is open to the general public from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month (second Sunday if the first is a holiday)

September 1
October 6
November 3

President's Message — by Sara-Ann Goldman

Those of us who join in on work nights at the South River Museum never know what we will see. It may be something newly donated, or an object we can't immediately identify, or an item whose date of origin is unknown. When we came together on one of those work nights, I was told that an old quilt had been donated by Dorothy Barkelew. Included with the quilt was a note stating that it was started in 1851 and completed in 1854 by Ann Smith and Stephen Smith. It went on to identify the Smiths as ancestors of Stephen Smith Barkelew and his son Orville Stephen Barkelew of South River.

Because I'm a quilter I was able to recognize the pattern right away — it's a variation of a Carolina lily. The Carolina lily pattern dates to the 19th century and was popular in the Carolinas, spreading throughout the south, and moving into the north over the years. The flowers in the pattern are red and the leaves and stems are all in the same green.

In addition to the modern note that tells us the date and makers of the quilt, close inspection turns up the names and dates handwritten on the quilt itself. One block names Ann Smith with a date of 1851 and another Ann Smith and Stephen Smith with a date of 1854.



A section of the quilt made by Ann and Stephen Smith between 1851 and 1854. Donated by Dorothy Barkelew.

I do believe that the dates written on the quilt and copied on the note are correct. The writing was done in black India ink which was commonly used to sign quilts because it is permanent and doesn't fade or run. In addition to that, the colors and prints in the fabric show that they pre-date the invention of the first synthetic fabric dyes.

Synthetic dye is known as aniline or "coal tar" dye which is extracted from petrochemicals. Such dyes were first used in 1856. They provided a wide range of new vivid colors with green being the first synthetic dye.

Continued on page 4

The South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc. was established in 1988 to preserve South River's past for future generations while furthering interest in and knowledge of the history of the borough. For more information, visit us at: southriverhistory.org or www.facebook.com/southriverhistory.

The League Publication Committee has announced the winners of the 2024 Kevin Hale Publications Awards:

Newsletters:

1st Place: South River Historical & Preservation Society

2nd Place: Boonton Historical Society and Museum

3rd Place: Walpack Historical Society

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



Gem of the Mountains

The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum
December, 2024
210 Main Street, Boonton, New Jersey 07005 ♦ (973) 402-8840 ♦ www.boonton.org/268/Boonton-Historical-Society

Upcoming Events

— Holiday Open House —

Sunday, December 15th, Noon to 4:00 PM
at the Boonton Museum

Join us for an afternoon of musical entertainment and refreshments when harpist Patricia Turse will be our guest. This will be the last chance to see our successful exhibit *The Honorable Joshua S. Salmon: Boonton's Forgotten Statesman*. Our gift shops will be open with many BARGAINS and special items for your holiday shopping. SANTA will visit from Noon to 1 PM!

— Annual Membership Meeting —

Sunday, January 26th, 2025, 2:00 PM
at the Boonton Senior Center

Our Museum Educator Loren Katsakos will present the program *Slavery & The Underground Railroad*.

— New Changing Exhibit —

Sunday, March 23rd, 2025, Noon to 4:00 PM



Boontonware

PLEASE NOTE: the Museum will only be open by appointment during the months of January and February 2025.

Mr. Salmon Goes To Washington

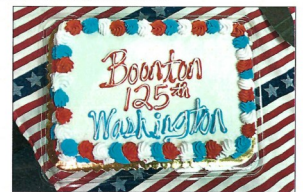
In November of 1899, Joshua Salmon was sworn in as a member of the United States House of Representatives from New Jersey's fourth congressional district. He was to serve in this position until his death on May 6, 1902.



Boonton Historical Society Trustee Art Charlton pictured (right) with guest speaker Republican Leonard Lance (left) a former representative for New Jersey's 7th congressional district.

Mr. Salmon's friends and colleagues from Boonton gathered to give him a heartfelt send-off as he began his first term.

To mark the 125th anniversary of this event, the Historical Society celebrated with Salmon's descendants, members, and friends.



A cake marked this special occasion. Photos: Nancy Charlton Questa

WALPACK historical society

Newsletter of the
Walpack Historical Society

www.walpackhistory.org

"Preserving a Fine
Tradition of Caring"

Published Quarterly

Fall 2024

A TRACTOR'S JOURNEY

Around 2018 I came upon a 1951 Farmall Cub I will call Elmo. I call it Elmo because it's red and well...I think it looks like Elmo! Elmo was a well-traveled adjustable wide front farm tractor sitting in the garage of Eugene Rosenkrans, not far from where it spent most of its life. I met Gene Rosenkrans through another friend and local historian Robert L. Williams about two years before that. It was then that I spotted red iron and a pair of round eye-like headlights peeking out from inside his garage at 11 Old Mine Road. I would shortly learn this was no ordinary garage. More to follow below on that below...

The tractor had an Edison's lab appearance to it. It was extremely well traveled and obviously well looked after. Gene spoke of how he'd spent countless hours running it up and down the fields at his family farm which was just down the road a bit. I told him about another old tractor I had and how I enjoy them. He then asked if I would be interested in his. He said he drove it down the road and parked it inside the garage many years before, but it had not run since. It had that classic old gasoline and oil smell to it with a dose of neat old garage aroma and a mud wasp nest or two attached. I thought about it for a bit thinking, what would I do with another old tractor and where would I keep it and would I even be able to work on another one? But something about this one was special. It was intact and came



Photo of Mark Miller working on Elmo the Tractor

with a 5-foot-wide mower. But Elmo's biggest selling feature was its history. It spent its life and was deeply rooted in my favorite place, Walpack, New Jersey! I took Gene up on the offer, showing up a week or so later with my trailer. As we loaded the tractor Gene talked more about his place and how it was the Flatbrookville Garage and Service Station when Flatbrookville was a thriving village within

Walpack, New Jersey. His father operated the garage up until the 1960's. I love the area and I'm a huge fan of local history and was enjoying hearing his firsthand account of growing up and living here. We continued packing up Elmo along with the 5-foot-wide mower and various brackets and pulleys. The thought of "what will I do with this tractor?" was in the back of my head. It needed to run again, it needed to be restored, and Gene expressed sincere interest in seeing it run again. This was no ordinary old tractor. I was now in possession of a true piece of Walpack history.

While hauling it the short distance over the mountain back toward my farm in Hampton Township I felt as if I was removing a piece of history. The tractor had more of a purpose than sitting in my barn and occasionally going out for a run. Elmo needed to do more. I continued down Old Mine Road watching Elmo in my mirrors making sure it stayed secure in the trailer. I daydreamed of getting it running and using it in my official NPS - Historic Property Stewards volunteer duties perhaps doing occasional mowing with it. I brought Elmo back to my place and rolled it off the trailer into an open bay in my barn where I would begin working on it immediately.

A few days later I found myself peering down into the empty spark plug holes of the antiquated flathead little 4-banger. Rolling the motor over by hand I could see the valves were stuck in their guides and some were being held open by carbon. There was a fair amount of gunk inside the crankcase, so I began soaking the engine, filling the crankcase and combustion chambers up with diesel fuel and rolling it over by hand several times a day. A literal wake-up, rinse and repeat process. After draining down the mess and recycling it I noticed the valves were still not moving properly. They were sticking in their guides.

I tend to be a slow-working, shade tree mechanic and over the next few weeks I would work on it off and on and between other tasks and chores and getting out with my bicycle. I would pass by Gene's place on Old Mine Road and stop by with some fresh picked veggies and to chat and he would always ask "Did you get that old tractor going yet?" I always shared where it was in the process and really looked forward to the day I could tell him it was running again. All the while in the back of my head I kept thinking about "zero compression on all but one cylinder"

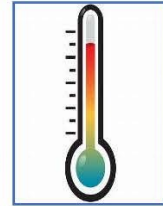
Continued on pg. 2



ARCHIVAL STORAGE OF PAPER AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Here are 10 tips for storing your historic paper documents and photographs:

1. The best way to store your records is to keep them in a dark, cool, and dry place since sunlight and humidity or moisture are some of paper's worst enemies.
2. Keep items separated according to your filing scheme and in acid-free, lignin-free folders. This will counter-balance acids in the documents themselves.
3. Store documents where temperatures will not fluctuate to extremes of hot and cold, even if those happen during the year in your geographic location. Do NOT store documents in attics or basements.
4. Remove all staples and paper clips since they leave a rust residue and impressions on paper and photographs that can be hard to remove.
5. Photographs and negatives should also be kept in plastic sleeves made of polyethylene, polystyrene, or polypropylene.
6. Sleeves should NOT be made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC) since it emits gases that can damage photos. Likewise, NEVER laminate or glue anything!
7. As with paper records, in the absence of purchasing a spare refrigerator, keep photographs and negatives from extremes in temperature.
8. Archival items can be found in local office supply stores, but it may be more efficient to Google "archival supplies" for dealers who specialize in acid-free materials.
9. Hardcover books generally last much longer than paperbacks, whose lower-quality paper usually degrades much faster.
10. Digitizing documents can save space, but it comes with a host of other issues like media obsolescence and technical failures, so brainstorm and plan ahead!!!



For unusual items contact the Bayonne Historical Society, Inc., at 201-436-5978.

Based on: "Tracing Your Roots" by Danny Klein in The Jersey Journal, 10/14/2023

Adapted & Published by: The Bayonne Historical Society, Inc.

Gary Saretzky has added comments on the next page.

While I agree with much of the attachment that you sent, some of it is oversimplified. Here are some clarifications:

1. “Acid-free” is a meaningless term because PH is a scale that extends from acid to alkaline. If something is acid free, it could be neutral PH or alkaline. For most paper storage enclosures and folders, alkaline materials are preferred. Neutral PH materials are safer to use with some types of color photographs, blueprints, and cyanotypes. I agree with the tips regarding the use of lignin-free storage materials.
2. While polyethylene, polystyrene, and propylene are used for photographic materials, only those manufactured for archival use without coatings of any kind are safe to use. Buyers should verify that the plastics they are buying have passed the Photographic Activity Test (PAT). With regard to negatives, only some types of negatives are safe to be stored in plastic enclosures. Nitrate negatives and acetate negatives should be stored in buffered paper enclosures, as should glass plate negatives.
3. While older hardcover editions of books were often printed on better quality paper than paperback reprints, today many paperback editions are printed on the same paper as the hardcover editions. The problem with paperbacks is that they are more easily damaged through handling.
4. Digitizing documents can save space if the originals are destroyed, but often we want to preserve the originals and use the digital copies to enhance access and to provide a disaster backup.

Hope this is helpful.
Gray Saretzky

Ed. note: Lignin-free is paper that contains less than 1% lignin, a natural compound that causes paper to yellow and become brittle.

The passing of Joseph Bilby, military historian

Joseph George Bilby, 81, of Wall passed away peacefully on Monday, July 21, 2025 at the Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune. Joe proudly served his country as a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army’s First Infantry Division from 1966–1968 during Vietnam. While deployed in Vietnam, he worked as military police and ran a mortar platoon.



After his discharge from the Army, Joe worked in a variety of fields, including as a probation officer and a high school history teacher, before finding his calling working for the New Jersey Department of Labor in unemployment fraud investigations; he retired as a supervising investigator.

Joe was a graduate of Seton Hall University with a BA and MA in History. In his retirement, he spent many happy years working as Assistant Curator for the New Jersey National Guard and Militia Museum in Sea Girt.

He was also an esteemed author and historian who published over twenty books and over four hundred articles on New Jersey, the Civil War, and firearms history. In 2018, he was awarded the Richard J. Hughes Prize by the New Jersey Historical Commission for his lifelong contributions to New Jersey history.

Born and raised in Newark, Joe moved to Wall Township in 1970. He considered the Jersey Shore his true home.

Joe was predeceased by his loving wife Patricia Ann (Ziegler) Bilby in 2015, and by his parents Samuel and Margaret Bilby.

Surviving are his son John George Bilby and his wife Carol Mendez of Fair Lawn; daughters Katherine Ann Olsen and her husband Eric of Ewing; and Margaret Frances Bilby and her husband Jarrett Feldman of Neptune; as well as his grandchildren Anna, Angelica and Joseph.

THE RUTGERS ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVES (ROHA)

Founded in 1995, the Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) began as a collaborative project between the Rutgers College Class of 1942 and the Rutgers History Department to document alumni life experiences: first- and second-generation immigrant upbringings, the Great Depression, World War II, and beyond. ROHA soon opened its doors to all affiliated with Rutgers University, then to all New Jersey residents. Veterans' stories and alumni experience remain foundational to ROHA's long-term mission. The ROHA staff has since expanded its collections to reflect the social, cultural, diasporic, and local histories found in New Jersey. Through its life-course oral history interviews, ROHA adds the voices of everyday and ordinary people to the historical record.

To best document the richness of lives in New Jersey, ROHA partners with historical societies, public libraries, local governments, and community organizations. ROHA staff offers workshops on how to use the resources of the Rutgers Oral History Archives, how to conduct oral history interviews, and how to preserve and archive oral histories. ROHA receives and archives life-course oral history interviews conducted by volunteer interviewers and highlights the collections on its award-winning website, <https://oralhistory.rutgers.edu/>. Interested organizations and institutions should send an inquiry to roha@history.rutgers.edu.

ROHA's online digital archive has been recognized as a world-class oral history resource. Each year, over 33,000 researchers visit our site, which today features over 1,200 fully transcribed oral histories, nearly 50,000 pages of text. Stories shared with ROHA have appeared in exhibits at the Smithsonian, on the History Channel documentaries, and in the pages of newspapers and Pulitzer-Prize winning books. These materials are used to educate students from K-12 through graduate levels.

The Rutgers Oral History Archives is supported by the over 1,000 E. Ambrose Oral History Award to individual members of the Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS), a community support group of interviewees and supporters of ROHA.

At the society's annual meeting, ROHA and the Rutgers Living History Society present the Stephen E. Ambrose Award to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the practice and/or use of oral history. Daniel James Brown, acclaimed author of *The Boys in the Boat* and other works prominently employing oral history sources and methodologies, received the award in 2025.

Individuals wishing to support the ROHA's work are invited to join the Living History Society committees. Interested individuals should email William R. Fernekes, Chairperson of the Society's Community Liaison Committee, at bill41@comcast.net.

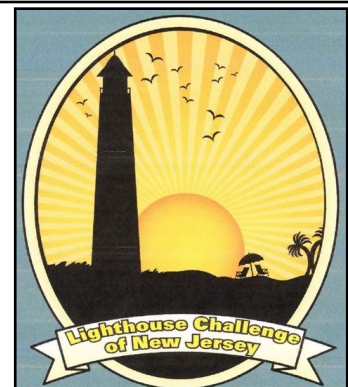


ROHA Director Shaun Illingworth (second from left) and RLHS Chairperson William R. Fernekes (last person on right) welcome new RLHS members at the May 2, 2025 Annual Meeting of the Rutgers Living History Society at Rutgers-New Brunswick.

OCTOBER 18th & 19th, 2025

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Visit <https://lighthousechallengenj.com/>



Do You Know Your State Symbols?

Would you believe that New Jersey has over twenty state symbols? In this continuing series, we will introduce you to several of our symbols in each issue of the magazine. We will start with the earliest and perhaps most well-known and work our way up to the most recent.

Let's start with the state flag, bird, tree, and flower.

The New Jersey **state flag** was adopted in 1896. Its official color is buff, which is a yellowish-tan color. The colors of the state flag, buff and dark blue (Jersey blue), were the colors George Washington chose for the flag of New Jersey's army regiments during the Revolutionary War. The state seal is featured on the flag. The New Jersey **state seal** features a shield with three plows, symbolizing the state's agricultural heritage, and is supported by the goddesses Liberty and Ceres. The seal includes the motto "Liberty and Prosperity" and was originally designed in 1777, with minor modifications made in 1928.



In 1935 the **eastern goldfinch** became our state bird. Alert birdwatchers can catch a glimpse of the male eastern goldfinch's bright yellow feathers as he visits New Jersey backyards and parks. He also has a black head, tail, and wings. To attract them, try putting out some sunflower seeds.

The **red oak** became our state tree in 1950. You can recognize this hardy tree from its pointy-lobed leaves with prickly tips. In autumn its leaves turn a beautiful, bright red. It produces many acorns, an important food for the squirrels and other critters.



New Jersey has considered the violet as our state flower since 1913. It wasn't until 1971 that the legislature made it one of our official symbols, the state flower. Violets are hardy enough to be found in New Jersey fields, lawns, and meadows—anywhere that they can find warm spring sunshine.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Carol Angell
Bass River Township Historical Preservation
Carolyn Cardwell
Edward Chambliss
Beth DeGeorge
Farmingdale Historical Society
Louis Faro
Gloucester County Library, Mullica
Hill branch
Thomas C. Haunton
Alan Hurley
Erich Morgan Huhn

Kenna Larsen
Lawrence LeFevre
Piscataway Historical & Heritage Society
Sophia Patti
Nancy Polhamus
William Quist
Donna Rafano
Ann Rotunno
Rutgers Oral History Archives
Marianna Savoia
South Plainfield Historical Society
John Wallmark

JOB MARKETPLACE



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listings



Job Seekers:

Review postings
OR
Post resume

VISIT TODAY!



THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY



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

Members can post job opportunities **free of charge!**

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

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Criteria for the 2025 Kevin M. Hale Newsletter

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 2025. 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, 2026.** 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 barthlinda123@aol.com or 908-240-0488, and she will mail a form to you.



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NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

New Quilt Book from the Gloucester County Historical Society *Celebrates a Rich Historic Textile Collection Dating Back to the 1700s*

WOODBURY, NJ — The Gloucester County Historical Society (GCHS) has published a new book about its extensive collection of quilts dating back to the 1700s. Titled **Threads Through Time: Quilts of the Gloucester County Historical Society**, the softcover 8.5x11 book includes large photographs and descriptions of the quilts and the local people who made and passed them along from generation to generation as family heirlooms.

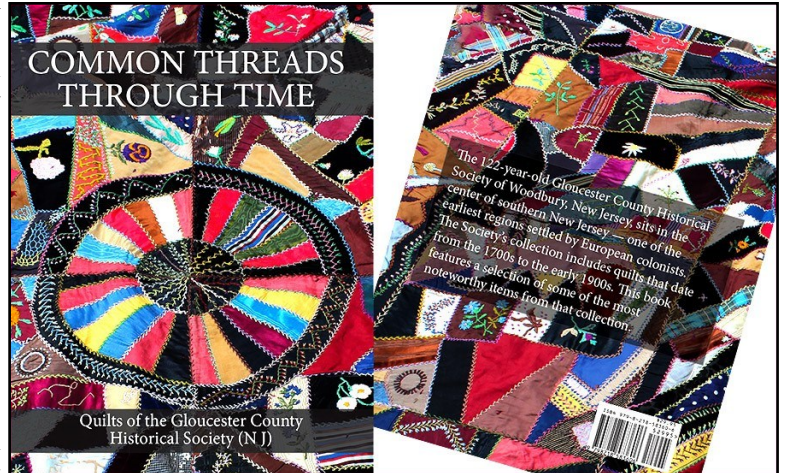
The 122-year-old Historical Society sits in the center of southern New Jersey—one of the earliest regions settled by European colonists. The Society's collection includes fine examples of quilts in the signature/autograph/friendship, crazy quilts, drunkard's path, grandmother's floral garden, Jacob's ladder, log cabin, nine patch, postage stamp, and yo-yo styles and patterns—just to name a few.

Created by a team at the historical society, the book project was funded by a grant from the New Jersey Council on the Arts through the Gloucester County Cultural & Heritage Commission of Rowan College of South Jersey.

Aside from the artistic beauty of the quilts, the accompanying provenance, maker and family ownership details in the book provide valuable information for genealogical researchers and other historians.

The book underscores how regional quilt makers engaged in a craft that was both a practical and aesthetic endeavor, preserving the social and cultural history of the time while reflecting the realities of life and commerce in those earlier eras.

The book is available for sale from the Gloucester County Historical Society website: <https://bit.ly/quilt-book>



In Washington's Footsteps: The Power of Revolutionary Places and Spaces in Central Jersey **By Donald Johnstone Peck**

Did you know...

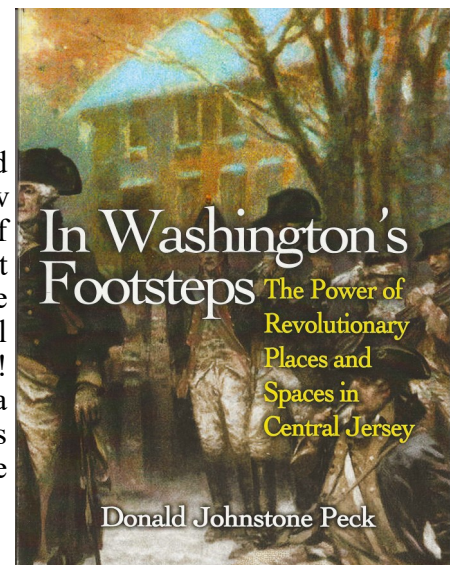
that more fighting took place in New Jersey during the American Revolution than any other state?

Or that General George Washington spent about half the war in the Garden State?

Its crossroads and highways, fertile plains and wooded hills, waterways, and marshes, all shaped New Jersey's evolution and its place in the founding of a new nation! While the landscape has changed since, it is still possible to find vestiges of that rich past, from those well-known to tourists to other hidden survivors known best to historians. Each offers a unique opportunity to stand where our ancestors once stood and contemplate lives challenged by war and inspired by peace. The visceral experience transcends time in a way hard to otherwise experience!

In Washington's Footsteps, by historian and author Donald Johnstone Peck, is a celebration of the power of such places in Central Jersey. From taverns to mansions to slave quarters to houses of worship, Peck weaves the story of each into the fascinating narrative of American independence.

(continued on the next page)



In Washington's Footsteps, however, is also a cautionary tale. Each year we lose a few more of such special places to modernity, taking with them the chance to connect with our heritage in an intimate way. Whether you care about historic preservation, are a Rev War buff, or just like a good story, Peck makes the history in our backyards come alive and relevant!

In Washington's Footsteps : The Power of Revolutionary Places and Spaces in Central Jersey

By Donald Johnstone Peck | Published by Garden State Legacy

Softcover, 140 pages, black and white, with 78 illustrations

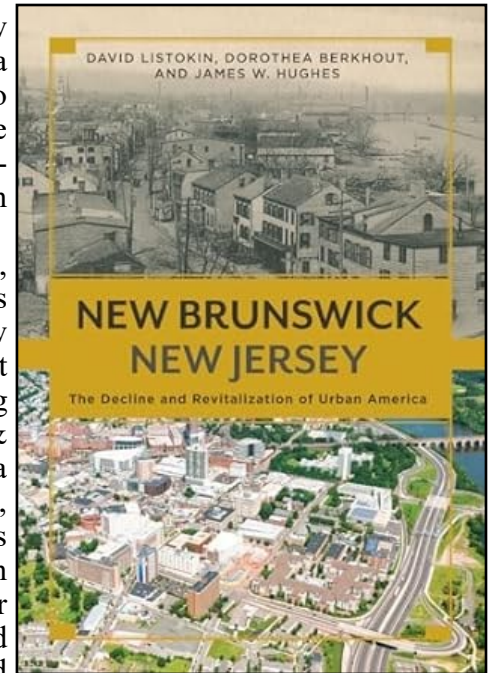
\$25.00 each, including shipping! Send your check payable to: Donald J. Peck, 893 Main Street, Fords, NJ 08863

New Brunswick, New Jersey: The Decline and Revitalization of Urban America **By David Listokin, Dorothea Berkhout, and James W. Hughes**

While many older American cities struggle to remain vibrant, New Brunswick has transformed itself, adapting to new forms of commerce and a changing population and enjoying a renaissance that has led many experts to cite this New Jersey city as a model for urban redevelopment. Featuring more than 100 remarkable photographs and many maps, New Brunswick, New Jersey explores the history of the city since the seventeenth century, with an emphasis on the dramatic changes of the past few decades.

Using oral histories, archival materials, census data, and surveys, authors David Listokin, Dorothea Berkhout, and James W. Hughes illuminate the decision-making and planning process that led to New Brunswick's dramatic revitalization, describing the major redevelopment projects that demonstrate the city's success in capitalizing on funding opportunities. These projects include the momentous decision of Johnson & Johnson to build its world headquarters in the city, the growth of a theater district, the expansion of Rutgers University into the downtown area, and the destruction and rebuilding of public housing. But while the authors highlight the positive effects of the transformation, they also explore the often heated controversies about demolishing older neighborhoods and ask whether new building benefits residents. Shining a light on both the successes and failures in downtown revitalization, they underscore the lessons to be learned for national urban policy, highlighting the value of partnerships, unwavering commitment, and local leadership.

Today, New Brunswick's skyline has been dramatically altered by new office buildings, residential towers, medical complexes, and popular cultural centers. This engaging volume explores the challenges facing urban America, while also providing a specific case study of a city's quest to raise its economic fortunes and retool its economy to changing needs.



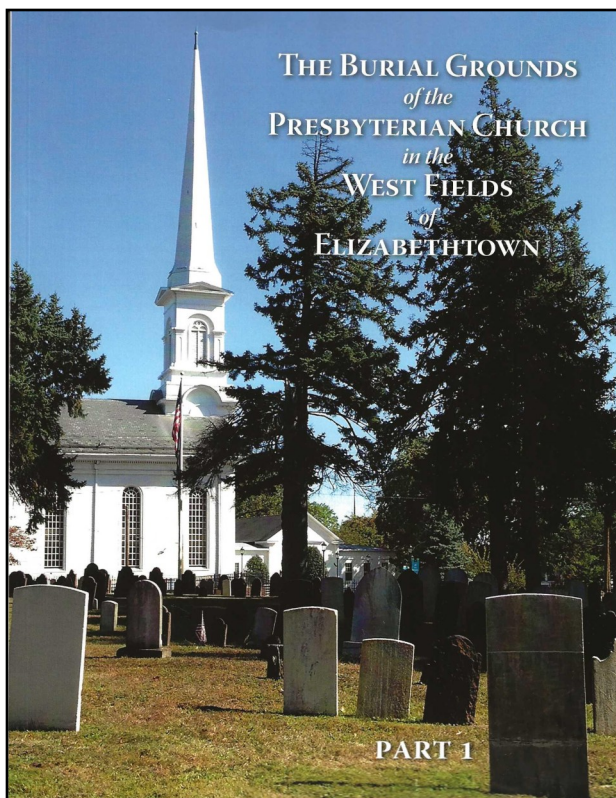
Splash the Steamboat **As Told to Linda Barth by the Steamboat Herself**

Bart Hoebel had a dream—he wanted to launch a steamboat in the Delaware River! He wanted to teach schoolchildren about water quality, history, critters in the water, and how a steamboat operates.

Sight unseen, he bought a dilapidated boat from Ohio and figured out how to bring it back to life. Follow the story of Splash and how she came to New Jersey to teach and entertain children from across the state.

Available on Amazon in paperback or Kindle: Search for the title.





The Burial Grounds of the Presbyterian Church in the West Fields of Elizabethtown, Part 1

Compiled by H. David Rogers

The Burial Grounds of the Presbyterian Church in the West Fields of Elizabethtown, Part I is the 300-year history of that cemetery. Included are excerpts from many sources, plus maps, photographs, results of restoration projects, recognition of the 75 Revolutionary War soldiers, a search for internments of those of African heritage, all of the engraved epitaphs, and much more. Part 2, to be published later this year, will contain the names and other information concerning more than 1400 people buried there.

The current 200-page document is available from the Presbyterian Church in Westfield. The cost is a requested donation to the Cemetery Endowment of \$29.95 plus a \$6.00 mailing fee. The church address is The Cemetery Committee, The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, 140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. The phone number is 908-233-0301.

Last Links to the Past - 20th Century South Jersey Glass Volume 2 - Brotherhood in the Pine Barrens

By Thomas Haunton

Last Links to the Past is a combination of history book, picture book, and detailed production catalog of one of New Jersey's best-known but rapidly disappearing products, hand-blown glass. Using information gathered by the author over a period of forty years, the book tells the stories of more than forty glassblowing shops that operated in, or immediately adjacent to the New Jersey Pine Barrens between 1899 and 2025.

An astonishing work! The amount of detailed history, the intimate views of glassmakers, their skills and products, the number of photographs of glassmakers, and the volume of glass documented to makers is both impressive and overwhelming. This book should be in every American glass collector's library!

Dwight Lanmon, Former Director Corning Museum of Glass; former Director Winterthur Museum

8½ by 11 inch softbound book. 614 pages, over 1200 photographs. \$150.00 media mail postpaid. Discounts available for early orders & institutions. Payment by check, money order, or PayPal. For purchase and/or questions, contact: tchaunton@comcast.net

Last Links to the Past



20th Century South Jersey Glass Volume 2

Brotherhood in the Pine Barrens
Thomas C. Haunton

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2025 Fall Meeting
Hosted by Chatham Township Historical Society/Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum
at the Chatham Township Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ 07928
Saturday, November 8, 2025
973-635-4911

- 9:00-9:30 a.m. Registration, coffee, and continental breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Welcome by Martha Wells, president of the Chatham Township Historical Society and Chatham Township Mayor Mike Choi
- 9:45-10:15 a.m. League of Historical Societies of New Jersey business meeting
- 10:15-11:00 a.m. "Demystifying the Grant Process, Proven Tips for Success" — Morris County Historical Society Executive Director Amy Curry will provide insight into the world of grant writing. Pulling on experience with nearly \$3.8 million awarded funds from all types of grantors over the past 13 years, Ms. Curry has learned to navigate even the most complicated and competitive of grants with success. Topics will include grant writing tips, navigating the granting process, types of grantors, and sources of funding.
- 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:15 am-noon "The Revolutionary War in Chatham and Morris County," by Pat Wells, Vice President of Chatham Township Historical Society. Soldiers and civilians, everyone experienced the war.
- 12-12:45 p.m. Lunch
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. Sharing Successful Outreach Techniques & Engaging the Public with Martha Wells, President of Chatham Township Historical Society. Martha will share outreach techniques that can help societies engage the public and share history. For groups with and without museums. We want you to share your successes as well.
- 1:45 p.m. End of program
- Local tours:
- Visit Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum, 24 Southern Blvd, Chatham. We're more than a schoolhouse!
 - Take a driving tour of the Chatham Township historic markers.
 - Take a walking tour of Chatham Borough's Historic District.
 - Visit the Morris County Great Swamp Outdoor Education Center and take a stroll through nature.

Local Accommodations:

The Hub Murray Hill; Best Western Premier, 535 Central Ave., New Providence, NJ 07974; 908-665-9200.
 Turkey Hill Inn, 73 Beechwood Road, Summit, NJ 07901; 908-522-9699.

To register, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$30 (payable to the Chatham Township Historical Society) to: Chatham Township Historical Society, PO Box 262, Chatham, NJ 07928. Please register by November 1st, 2025.

If you have questions, please call 973-635-4911 or email HistoryNow2020@gmail.com

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

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Affiliation _____

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2025 Fall Meeting
Hosted by Chatham Township Historical Society/Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum
at the Chatham Township Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham, NJ 07928
Saturday, November 8, 2025
973-635-4911

Directions:

Route 78 from west: Exit 29 to 287N. Exit 35 to South Street, turn right. Take first left onto Woodland Road for 3 miles. Turn right onto Green Village Road and proceed 2.9 miles (will become Southern Blvd. at Hickory Tree Shopping Center). At top of the hill, you will see the Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum on far left corner (for future reference). Turn right onto Fairmount Avenue, follow 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Meyersville Road. Turn right into the **Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road (see image below left).**

Route 78 from east: Exit 48 to Route 24 West to Exit 7B for River Road, Summit. Follow River Road about 0.8 miles then it will curve to the right and become Watchung Avenue. At the traffic light at the top of the hill, turn left onto Fairmount Avenue. Follow this 3.5 miles to Meyersville Road. Turn right into the **Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road (see image below left).**

Route. 287 from north: Exit onto Madison Avenue East, Morristown. Follow 3.6 miles. Turn right onto Green Village Road and proceed 2.9 miles (will become Southern Blvd at Hickory Tree Shopping Center). At top of the hill, you will see the Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum on far left corner (for future reference). Turn right onto Fairmount Avenue, follow 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Meyersville Road. Turn right into the **Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road (see image below left).**

Route. 287 from south: Exit 35 to South Street, turn right. Take first left onto Woodland Road for 3 miles. Turn right onto Green Village Road and proceed 2.9 miles (will become Southern Blvd at Hickory Tree Shopping Center). At top of the hill, you will see the Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum on far left corner (for future reference). Turn right onto Fairmount Avenue, follow 1.8 miles. Turn right onto Meyersville Road. Turn right into the **Municipal Building at 58 Meyersville Road (see image below left).**



Red Brick Schoolhouse Museum
We're more than a schoolhouse!

