



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 30, No. 1

February 2004

Haddon Heights Historical Society to Host March League Meeting

The Haddon Heights Historical Society will host the March League meeting at the Haddon Heights First United Methodist Church on Saturday, March 13, 2004. The church is located at the corner of 7th and Garden streets in Haddon Heights.

For information before the event, or for a list of hotels, please call 856-546-1967. For information on the day of the event, please call 856-465-7751.

DIRECTIONS:

From the North and South: Take the NJ Turnpike to Exit 3. From there, take State Highway 168 N, towards Philadelphia, to Kings Hwy (1.35 miles). At the Mobil Station, turn right onto Kings Hwy, Camden County 551 (1.2 miles). Turn right onto 7th Avenue. Proceed 3 blocks to Garden Street. The Church parking lot is on the right.

From the East: Take the AC Expressway to the end, which becomes NJ 42 N. Follow NJ 42 N to I-295 N (3.2 miles). Take Exit 29B, US 30 W, towards Barrington/Haddon Hts/Collingswood. Then, merge onto US 30 N (White Horse Pike) to Station Avenue. Turn left onto Station Ave. and drive 2 blocks to 7th Avenue. Turn left onto 7th Street. The parking lot is at the end of the block on the right.

**Registration form on page 12.
Map on page 11.**

MEETING AGENDA

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:05 League business meeting
- 11:15 The Value of Historic Preservation to Haddon Heights History
- 12:15 Lunch
- 1:30 Tours of homes in Haddon Heights

New Jersey Historic Trust Announces \$150,000 Available in New Grants For Historic Preservation

The **New Jersey Historic Trust** has announced that applications and guidelines for the Cultural Trust Capital Preservation Program are now available to qualified history and humanities organizations. This year's grant awards, provided in partnership with the **New Jersey Cultural Trust**, will range from \$5,000 to \$15,000 and will be awarded to eligible organizations for capital improvements to historic properties. This year, a total of \$150,000 in grants will be awarded.

To receive a grant, the proposed work must involve properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, in the New Jersey or National Register of Historic Places. The current grant round will be devoted to projects that will stabilize historic properties, with preference given to projects of compelling urgency. No matching funds are required.

Potential applicants to the Capital Preservation Program are New Jersey-based, nonprofit organizations that
(continued on page eight)

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

President - Robert J. Hunter
Haddon Heights Historical Society;
856-547-7132

First Vice President— J.B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice-President, Northern—
John E. Chance
Montclair Historical Society

Vice-President, Central—
James T. Raleigh
Friends of Monmouth Battlefield

Vice-President, Southern—
Sonia L. Forry
Historical Preservation Society of
Upper Township

Secretary— Kevin M. Hale
Metuchen-Edison Historical
Society

Treasurer— Dorothy M. Andrew
Gloucester County Historical
Society

Membership Chairman—Dorothy
Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society

Historian— Sally Yerkovich
New Jersey Historical Society

Trustee, Northern—
Dorothy E. Johnson
Oakeside-Bloomfield Cultural
Center

Trustee, Northern—
Betty Hardy
Madison Historical Society

Trustee, Central—
William Fidurski
Clark Historical Society

Trustee, Central— Rhett Pernot
William Trent House Museum

Trustee, Southern—
Jean Lacey
Ocean County Historical Society

Trustee, Southern—
Douglas Winterich
Burlington Cty Historical Society

Trustee-at-Large—
Robert R. Longcore
Sussex County Historical Society

Trustee-at-Large—
Randall Gabrielan
Monmouth County Historical
Commission

MARK YOUR CALENDAR... FOR THE SPRING LEAGUE MEETING, CENTRAL REGION



The League's Summer Meeting will be held in Cranbury on Saturday, **June 19, 2004**. The meeting and programs will be conducted at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, followed by lunch at the historic Cranbury Inn. The afternoon will feature tours of various locations in Cranbury. Please join us for this historic visit to Cranbury.

**Fall meeting: Montclair
October 23rd**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Dear Members:

I trust you will find this newsletter interesting and useful.

If your organization has issued a recent publication, please send an announcement to the League at P.O. Box 909, Madison, NJ 07940; please include details such as the cost and contact information.

Because we publish just three times a year, we will not publish announcements of local programs. We are, however, designing a website: www.lhsnj.org. You may submit local program announcements to the site and we will try to post them in a timely manner.

Future newsletters will carry the League meeting registration forms, worthwhile grant information, reports from our preservation committee, and Jack Chance's Ideas-4-U column.

Please send suggestions about the newsletter and website to me at P.O. Box 240, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035, or to our webmaster@lhsnj.org.

Please send renewal dues to our PO Box in Madison.

Thank you.

Robert J. Hunter
President

IDEAS-4-U

Are you in charge of arranging programs for your society? Are you running out of ideas?

Mutual assistance is the main purpose for which the League was formed, and program planning is perhaps the area in which we may be of greatest assistance to each other. So watch this space as Jack Chance offers program ideas from your sister organizations.

Listed here are some recent programs offered by our member organizations. Perhaps they will suggest ideas for your society's officers and program chairmen.

For further information, please contact the sponsoring organization (in italics). Your membership list has the contact information.

The Man Who Flew the Enola Gay. Panel discussion, including the pilot of the plane that carried the first atomic bomb. *Naval Air Station Wildwood Museum.*

The History in Our Back Yard. An exhibit of artifacts found during an archeological dig that was required prior to major construction at a site in Elizabeth. *Elizabeth Public Library.*

The Oldest Houses in Cape May County. Illustrated lecture by a historic preservation consultant. *Cumberland County Historical Society.*

Lest We Forget exhibit. A talk about a personal collection of slavery artifacts. *Peter Mott House Underground Railroad Museum.*

Bus trip to Eckley Miners' Village, Weatherly, PA. Everyday life of the miner and his family in an anthracite mining community. *Ferromonte Historical Society of Mine Hill.*

Discovering Our Past, Creating Our Future. Inspection of recent excavations of Revolutionary War artifacts; lecture on life in Colonial times. *Gloucester County Cultural & Heritage Commission.*

The Evolution of Home Conveniences and Technology. Presentation by social historian and author Merritt Ierley. *Montclair Historical Society and Victorian Society/Northern New Jersey.*

Exploring Chinese Culture. Stories, songs, holiday celebrations. *Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission.*

The Study of Ghosts Through Scientific Research. Presentation by Michael Dreiser, of the New Jersey Ghost Research Program. *Pilesgrove-Woodstown Historical Society.*

The Delaware & Raritan Canal. Illustrated talk on the history of this waterway, one of the most successful towpath canals in the country, now preserved as a state park. *Heritage Trail Association.*

Stompin' at the Shore. Traveling exhibit from *Atlantic City Historical Society* that tells the story of African-American entertainers who came to Atlantic City and the Wildwoods from the turn of the century to the 1950s. 800-275-4278.

Exploring Wells and Privies of 1760 Philadelphia. Joe Butewicz of South River, avid bottle collector, shares his many excavations and discoveries. *Pilesgrove-Woodstown Historical Society*

Tour of New York City's Historic Synagogues. (Jewish Historical Society of Central New Jersey. 732-249-4894.

Where Have All the Farmers Gone? Documentary film presents the words of a few of the remaining Hunterdon County farmers. *Hunterdon County Historical Society*

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CC) at High Point State Park. Lecture by Peter Osborne, author of two books on the subject. *Walpack Historical Society*

Indians and Europeans in Colonial New Jersey: Cultures in Competition. Lecture by Lorraine Williams, NJ State Museum, about settlers of the New Sweden colony. *Pennsville Township Historical Society*

John A. Roebling's Rebirth in New Jersey. Illustrated talk by Donald Sayenga on Roebling's decision to begin a new life as a wire rope manufacturer and bridge builder in Trenton, New Jersey. His factory produced the cable for the inclined planes of the Morris Canal and for the aqueducts of the Delaware & Hudson Canal. *Canal Society of New Jersey.*

Historic Resources and Rail Freight in 21st Century New Jersey

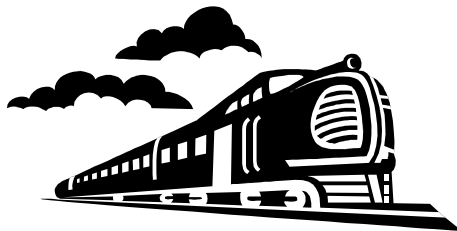
by William T. Fidurski

Our dedicated local guardians of historic resources that abut and include New Jersey's century-old rail system may want to keep a cautious eye on the sudden resurgence of interest in rail transportation in the state. Seemingly isolated rail projects such as the NJDOT proposal to install additional track at Oak Island Yard and on the Chemical Coast Line and Lehigh Valley Railroad in Union, Essex, Middlesex and Somerset counties; Union County's reactivation of the Staten Island Railway and the Rahway Valley Railway between Staten Island and Summit; and the NJDOT proposal to reactivate the Lackawanna Cutoff between Andover and Scranton, all share a commonality with the rapid increases in marine cargo arrivals at the Port of New York/New Jersey.

With work ongoing to increase the depth of New York Harbor to 13 feet below historic levels, the number of truck containers passing through the port has reached 2.2 million per year, double what it was in 1991. The Port Authority has plans to increase container arrivals to 4.4 million a year by 2010, and redouble that amount by 2040. The sheer magnitude of the increases, along with already unbearable traffic congestion surrounding the port areas, has prompted the Port Authority to try to exploit any conceivable options for rail transport of marine cargo. Diesel lines are particularly targeted, because without any over-

head electric lines, double stacking of containers on flatbeds would be more readily accomplished.

Coincidentally, the City of New York is evaluating a number of plans that would involve packing New York City's municipal solid waste into containers that could move by rail or water out of Staten Island. Although the Chemical Coast Line and the Lehigh Valley Railroad are key to Port Authority plans, additional traffic is also planned for the Reading System between Woodbridge and Bound Brook. Both the Lehigh Valley and Reading System pass through Bound Brook and branch through historic Flemington Junction, Pennington, and Hopewell before crossing over the Delaware River. The re-

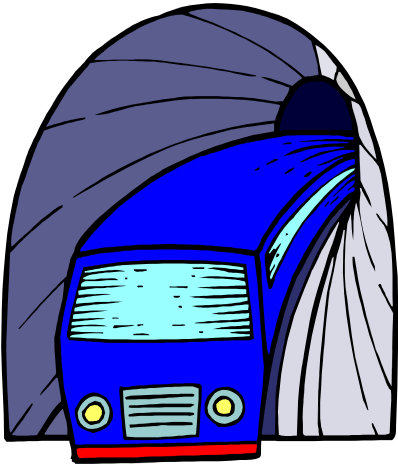


activation of the Staten Island Railway and the Rahway Valley Railway will connect the container terminal at Howland Hook to the Morris and Essex Division line at Summit, which would provide access to the old freight siding at Millington on the Gladstone Branch and on the main Erie-Lackawanna through Morristown, Dover, and the old Lackawanna Cutoff terminus at Andover. Although the NJDOT is touting the resumption of passenger service to justify reconstruction of the Lackawanna Cutoff, passenger proponents should remember that the straightness of the Lackawanna Cutoff was renowned for its ability to have freight trains

maintain a sustained 70 mph on their way to Scranton and Buffalo. Rail connections west of Scranton also reach out to Taylor, Pennsylvania, near a Municipal Solid Waste landfill along the Ransom and Taylor border.

Much of the potential threat to historic resources stems from the archaic design of the state's freight rail system and its origins in the essentially agrarian society of the nineteenth century. Local historians need to be alert to efforts to increase carrying capacity that could result in structural changes that would cause destruction of historic properties and negative impacts to viewsheds. Although garbage cars might be touted as being "sealed," even the best cars must vent odors or burst from the expansion of fermentation gases. The flat topography of central New Jersey has resulted in many track crossings at street level; U.S. Route 22 in Union, St. Georges Avenue at the Linden/Roselle border, Route 35 in Woodbridge, and South Avenue in Cranford are examples. Freight trains could run on sections of track used by the Raritan Valley line and share commuter track on the Erie-Lackawanna. Aside from the immediate potential for commuter gridlock as freight trains block automobile movements at grade crossings and obstruct passenger trains along shared portions of track, eventual plans to construct overpasses and underpasses could also cause serious encroachment on historic properties. For the present, increases in air pollution and traffic delays can be expected as cars and passenger trains idle when an increasing number of freight trains crowd the tracks.

The Lackawanna Cutoff is



known for its picturesque, poured-concrete overpasses and underpasses and the historic Roseville Tunnel, which could be threatened by increased train weight or double-stacked containers.

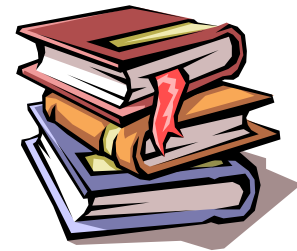
All of these circumstances only illustrate the need for careful scrutiny of any rail proposals and all possible impacts in the long term. If any historic resources along train routes do not already have historic registry, local historical societies may want to ascertain eligibility for historic registry or, preferably, sponsor nominations for historic registry. Concerns over historic properties should be immediately conveyed to state legislators and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the NJDEP. If a registered property is threatened by a project that has no federal involvement, the SHPO can be contacted to request a hearing and Interested Party status under N.J.A.C. 7:4-7.2. Historic properties that may be threatened by projects funded by the state may fall within the scope of Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that may be required under Governor Tom Kean's Executive Order #215. Federal involvement in projects affecting registered his-

toric resources or those eligible for registry would prompt a federally-mandated Environmental Impact Statement. Local historians should participate in the hearing process under Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 by commenting on any proposals and by obtaining Consulting Party and Signatory status to any applicable Memorandum of Agreement in accordance with 36 C.F.R. 800. Although the Port Authority of NY/NJ is presently limiting public outreach to port communities, the port expansion will have statewide rail impacts that need to be addressed through local hearings at rural and suburban levels. Anyone interested in commenting on the scope of the planned Environmental Impact Statement for the port expansion can log on to www.cpiponline.org and www.cpipeis.com.

Unfortunately, the port expansion plans generally reflect a desire of the Port Authority to control as much distribution of marine cargo as possible throughout the Northeast, as far as Chicago, Montreal and Virginia. In the process, the Port Authority intends to push as much cargo as possible through one of the most congested states in the nation, whether or not the necessary road and rail infrastructure will ever exist. As a state, we need to consider whether there is sufficient infrastructure to support expansion plans and whether all the goods need to pass through New Jersey. Perhaps there is a need to use other port facilities, like a new, alternative deepwater port in Baltimore, Halifax, or any of dozens of ports along a Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Seaway system, which is currently in dire need of developing increased capacity. Inadequate long term planning and insufficient infrastructure will only

create desperate conditions that will ultimately result in destruction of natural and historic resources as the paths of least resistance.

The author is a former civilian military analyst, former AFL-CIO local president, and retired federal agent, who presently serves as a Trustee and Regulatory Advisor to the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and Chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission.



League Publication Awards

The League will review and recognize historically related publications (from member societies) that meet award criteria set by the League Awards Committee for books, pamphlets, newsletters, journals, and calendars. (The committee will meet early this year to formulate the criteria.)

Please submit material published in 2003 to The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, PO Box 909, Madison, NJ 07940.

ADVOCATES FOR NEW JERSEY HISTORY

Dear Colleagues:

Another step that the History Advocates have taken to prepare for the coming budget battle is the creation of county chapters. To this end, we have appointed a History County Coordinator for each of New Jersey's 21 counties.

These County Coordinators have taken on the major tasks of improving our outreach to our grass roots constituency and of fostering better contacts between legislators and the History supporters in their counties.

THESE COUNTY COORDINATORS NEED YOUR HELP TO STAY CURRENT ON EVENTS IN YOUR COUNTY.

If you can offer your time and energy to helping build your county chapter, please contact your History County Coordinator listed below:

Atlantic County

Cynthia Mason-Purdie
Atlantic County Office of
Cultural & Heritage Affairs
40 Faragut Avenue
Mays Landing, NJ 08330
(wk) 609-625-2776, ext. 631
(fax) 609-625-8143
cmasonpurdie@acmail.aclink.org

Bergen County

Maggie Harrer
Water Works Conservancy
PO Box 714
Oradell, NJ 07649
(wk) 201-967-0133
(fax) 201-967-7517
maggie91@aol.com

Burlington County
Douglas Winterich
Burlington County Historical Soc.
457 High Street
Burlington, NJ 08016-414
(wk) 609-386-4773
(fax) 609-386-4828
bchsnjed@earthlink.net

Camden County

Rhonda Carboni
Alice Paul Centennial Foundation
PO Box 1376
Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054
(wk) 856-231-1885
(fax) 856-231-4223
rcarboni@alicepaul.org

Cape May County

Paul Anselm
Ocean City Historical Society
1735 Simpson Avenue
Ocean City, NJ 08226
(wk) 609-399-1801
fireanalys@aol.com

Cumberland County

Pamela Griner Weintraub
Cumberland County Cultural &
Heritage Commission
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(fax) 856-453-9138
pamgr@co.cumberland.nj.us

Essex County

Sally Yerkovich
New Jersey Historical Society
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(fax) 973-596-6957
sy@pipeline.com

Gloucester County

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Gloucester County Cultural &
Heritage Commission
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Woodbury, NJ 08096

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(fax) 856-384-0207
drobinso@co.gloucester.nj.us

Hudson County

Marion Grzesiak
Jersey City Museum
350 Montgomery
Jersey City, NJ 07302
(wk) 201-413-0303
(fax) 201-413-9922
mgrze-
siak@jersercitymuseum.org

Hunterdon County

Stephanie Stevens
Hunterdon County Cultural &
Heritage Commission
3 Chorister Place, PO Box 2900,
Flemington, NJ 08822-2900
(wk) 908-788-1256
(fax) 908-534-4395
toad@blast.net

Mercer County

Gail Stern
Historical Society of Princeton
158 Nassau Street
Princeton, NJ 08542-7077
(wk) 609-921-6748
(fax) 609-921-6939
gailfstern@aol.com

Middlesex County

Isha Vyas
Middlesex County Cultural &
Heritage Commission
703 Jersey Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-3605
(wk) 732-745-4489
(fax) 732-745-4524
isha.vyas@co.middlesex.nj.us

Monmouth County

Lee Ellen Griffith
Monmouth Cty Historical Assn.
70 Court Street
Freehold, NJ 07728
(wk) 732-462-1466
(fax) 732-462-8346
legriffith@monmouth.com

Morris County

Bonnie-Lynn Nadzeika
Morris County Historical Society
68 Morris Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960
(wk) 973-267-3465
(fax) 973-267-8773
acornhall@juno.com

Ocean County

Barbara Rivolta
Ocean County Historical Society
26 Hadley Ave., PO Box 2191,
Toms River, NJ 08754-2191
(wk) 732-341-1880
(fax) 732-341-1880
Barbara.rivolta@verizon.net

Passaic County

Angelica Santomauro
American Labor Museum/Botto
House
83 Norwood Street
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(wk) 973-595-7953
(fax) 973-595-7291
labormuseum@aol.com

Salem County

David Young
Salem County Historical Society
79-83 Market Street
Salem, NJ 08079
(wk) 856-935-5004
(fax) 856-935-0728
schs@snip.net

Somerset County

Pat McGarry
Somerset County Cultural and
Heritage Commission
PO Box 3000
Somerville, NJ 08876
(wk) 908-203-6020
(fax) 908-707-1748
culturalheritage@co.somerset.nj.us

Sussex County

Dorothy Hartman
PO Box 1316
Montague, NJ 07827
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histrygirl@pikeonline.net

Union County

Susan Coen
Union Cty Cultural & Heritage
633 Pearl Street
Elizabeth, NJ 07202
(wk) 908-558-2550
(fax) 908-352-3513;
scoen@ucnj.org

Warren County

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Warren Cty Cultural & Heritage
8 Belvidere Avenue
Oxford, NJ 07863
(wk) 908-453-4381
(fax) 908-453-4981
msusan@nac.net

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours,
B. Michael Zuckerman, Ph.D.
Vice President



METLAR/BODINE HOUSE FIRE

On Thursday, July 17, 2003, a fire of unknown origin caused extensive damage to the Metlar/Bodine House on River Road in Piscataway. The 1870s section of the house was seriously burned, and the 1840s section suffered water and smoke damage. Thankfully the circa 1728 Bodine section seems to be in decent shape.

The fire was fierce and fast, but it did not reduce the museum to ashes. The 2½-story colonial was not gutted, but the interior portions that did not burn sustained damage from water and heat. The outside of the structure is in better shape, singed, but still standing and relatively intact. Enormous thanks go out to the many fire departments and firefighters who saved the museum from an awful and complete demise.

Housed at the Metlar/Bodine House, and especially prized by regional historians, was a collection of documents and artifacts rich in local history. The museum’s mission, to celebrate the area’s vibrant past and the development of the Raritan River Valley from prehistoric time to the present using transportation as the connecting theme, is evident in the collection’s title, “From Indian Trail to Interstate.” The structure itself typifies the socio-economic mores of the American experience and the collection provides a microcosm of impacts attributed to modes of travel on American history.

Included in the collection, and happily surviving the fire, are archives of 1820s slavery and a physician's ledger that recorded medical care of area farmers and their families between 1824 and 1839. Nevertheless,

(continued on page eleven)

Get Your Event Publicized in the *Star-Ledger* Calendars



The *Star-Ledger* has implemented a new system for compiling its calendars. To notify the paper about upcoming events, please use one of the options below to send your press releases. **Emails are preferred**, but please do not send your text in an attachment.

EMAIL: event@starledger.com
SNAIL MAIL: Listings Desk,
The Star-Ledger, 1 Star-Ledger
Plaza, Newark, NJ 07102-1200
FAX: Our new fax number for
event listings is (973) 274-8550.

As always, two weeks' advance notice is requested to meet our publication deadlines.

The following information is essential: the type of event, time, date, location (venue and full street address), admission cost (if any), registration deadlines, a phone number for publication, and a name and phone number for contact purposes. Sorry, but calendar items cannot be taken by phone.

Questions? Call the *Star-Ledger* at 973-392-1500.

New Jersey Historic Trust (continued from page one)

fulfill a history or humanities mission through active programs and services, have been in operation for a minimum of four years, are tax-exempt, and demonstrate financial and budgetary oversight to the standards set by the Cultural Trust. (Potential applicants that have not been pre-qualified should contact the Cultural Trust at 609-984-6767.) Applications are due **February 17, 2004**. Applications and guidelines are available on the New Jersey Historic Trust's Web site at <http://www.njht.org/cultural-trust>. To request an application by mail, call 609-984-0473 or email: njht@dca.state.nj.us.

Created by the State Legislature, the New Jersey Historic Trust is a non-profit historic preservation organization affiliated with the Department of Community Affairs. Governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees, the Trust promotes the preservation of New Jersey's historic resources by encouraging cooperative efforts between public and private agencies, providing financial assistance and accepting easements on historic properties.

Save the Date: History Issues Convention

The 11th annual History Issues Convention will be held on Wednesday, March 31 at the Trenton War Memorial. The theme will be "Building Alliances," with a goal of exploring how the history community can work together with other public interest groups such as the arts, tourism, recreation, teachers, and libraries.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Bruce Craig, director of the National Coalition for History, a Washington DC organization that represents the historical and archival community on Capitol Hill. Dr. Craig publishes the Washington Update, a respected monthly newsletter on national history issues. His keynote address will be *Building a History Alliance: Lessons From the Past, Opportunities for the Future.*

The event will also feature two panel discussions: (1) representatives from the NJ Recreation and Parks Association, the NJ Library Association, the NJ Council for History Education, the NJ Travel Industry Association, ArtPride, and the League of NJ Municipalities; (2) elected officials, including municipal and county officers and members of the state legislature. Workshops on history education and heritage tourism will follow the award luncheon. The registration fee of \$30 covers all events along with a continental breakfast and lunch. To obtain a registration brochure, call the New Jersey Historical Commission at 609-984-3458. Copies of the brochure are also available on the NJHC website, www.newjerseyhistory.org.

The convention is sponsored by the New Jersey Historical Commission and the Advocates for New Jersey History, and cosponsored by historical societies, museums, and history organizations around the state.

New Jersey Historical Commission Offers a Variety of Grants

The New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) offers a variety of grants as well as prizes and a free archival evaluation service, the Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service, or CAPES. The grants and prizes program is described in two separate booklets:

GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT

PROJECTS/MINIGRANTS/PRIZES/CAPEs

The FY 2005 editions of these two booklets are now available. You can obtain copies by contacting Ms. Diane Dillon at the Historical Commission by phone 609-984-3458 or by email: diane.dillon@sos.state.nj.us. You can also inspect the booklets by visiting our website: www.newjerseyhistory.org. Click on "Grants and Prizes."

General Operating Support:

Grants: General assistance to historical organizations, museums, historic sites, archives, libraries, and similar organizations. To qualify for assistance, organizations must have collections or programming relating to the history of New Jersey. Applicants must notify the Historical Commission of their intent to apply for General Operating Support by **March 3, 2004**. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2004. Applications must be received in the NJHC office by that date. Notification will be made in July 2004.

Organizations with budgets under \$30,000 can apply for up to \$10,000 (minimum request \$5,000). Organizations with budgets of \$30,000 or more can apply for up to 33 percent of their non-state operating income.

Project Grants: Funding for expenses of specific projects relating to New Jersey history. Eligible categories include conservation of historical materials (books, manuscripts, costumes, historical visuals); editorial and publication projects; educational initiatives; exhibitions; media (films, radio, videotape, digital media); public programs; and research (including archaeological projects, fellowships, oral history, and National and New Jersey registers of historic places nominations). The deadline is **September 15, 2004** (application must be received in the NJHC office by that date). Applicants can apply for grants from \$3,000 to \$20,000. Notification will be made in November 2004.

Minigrants: Support for the expenses of smaller versions of the type of activities listed under Projects. Applicants may request support for planning (long-term, interpretive, strategic), but they may not use minigrant funds for other types of operating support. There is **no deadline**, as applications are reviewed bimonthly. Applicants can apply for funding up to \$3,000. Notification is within six weeks of review.

Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service

(CAPEs): Professional assessment by consultants of the New Jersey Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Re-

gional Archives Conference of historical collections (paper items) held by New Jersey archives, libraries, historical societies, and other agencies. There is **no deadline**; submit form when convenient.

PRIZES

Mildred Barry Garvin Prize:

\$1,000 award to a New Jersey teacher, guidance counselor, or school librarian for outstanding teaching of black American history or related activity, K-12. Contact Giles Wright at the Commission. For information or a nomination form, call 609-984-3464 or email giles.wright@sos.state.nj.us. The deadline is **October 1, 2004** and notification will be made in January 2005.

Richard P. McCormick Prize:

Award of \$1,000 to an author of outstanding doctoral dissertation on any topic on New Jersey history. The deadline is **January 2, 2005** and notification will be made in September 2005.

Alfred E. Driscoll Prize:

Award of \$1,000 to an author of outstanding doctoral dissertation on any topic on New Jersey history. The deadline is **January 2, 2006** and notification will be made in September 2006.

For more information, contact the Grants Office, New Jersey Historical Commission, Mary R. Murrin, Director, Grants Program; 609-984-0954 or email mary.murrin@sos.state.nj.us. Or visit us on the web at www.newjerseyhistory.org

Howard Wiseman In Memoriam

Howard Wiseman played an important role in the civic life of New Jersey for more than half a century. He was the kind of citizen who gives meaning to the idea of democracy by taking a vigorous part in community affairs. I am not sure anyone really knows how many organizations Howard served in one capacity or another, but I must speak of two that I am familiar with.

When I arrived at the New Jersey Historical Society as Librarian in 1961, Howard had already been its first professional Museum Curator for nine years--a position in which he would serve until 1979. This most venerable of our historical bodies had long been known as a more or less exclusive private club of New Jersey's prominent old families--until the 1950s, when a small band of professionals began its transformation into a modern public institution serving the larger society that had evolved in the preceding century. Howard--a proud descendant of those early families--was one of those professionals who had the breadth of vision and the skill to make the New Jersey Historical Society the institution it is today. That public service alone, which he performed for nearly three decades, is enough to establish his reputation.

After I left the Society's staff to go on to the State Library, Howard and I remained colleagues at a distance, from time to time seeing each other at various events. It was impossible to avoid him, since he seemed to be involved in dozens of historical, museum, genealogical, and hereditary organizations in New Jersey. He served on the board of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and for some twenty years administered the popular awards program that

did so much to give the diverse historical societies of the state a sense of being part of a common cause. When I got involved in the League's activities, we once again became close colleagues and remained so for the past decade. It was always a tonic just to be with him.

Yes, this was a man who served his community, his state, and his nation in the best way he knew how--as a bearer and preserver of traditions and knowledge, as an organizer of people, as an educator. This was a public citizen.

We were not part of each other's private life, but it was not difficult to see what kind of personality Howard had. There was absolutely nothing aggressive, frenetic or flamboyant about him--with the notable exception of those bright red vests, which seemed so unusual for such a quiet fellow. Howard had the innate modesty of the self-respecting man thoroughly at home in his world--even a world that had changed so drastically since he was a child. Everything he did he did with quiet authority, with apparent ease, and with kindness.

I don't think any of us ever saw him express anger, or raise his voice, or even scowl. If someone's behavior or some event appeared cruel or stupid to him, the most you would get from Howard was raised eyebrows and a slightly disdainful smile.

When I came to the Society in the early 1960s I was an outsider and needed a friend. Howard became that friend, and he provided a gentle guidance that helped me to gain confidence. I doubt that he ever consciously

decided that he liked me and that I needed a helping hand. It was simply his natural way of behaving toward people, and I think he must have done that for a great many people.

And so I am left with the memory of a very decent gentleman of breeding, education and culture, a man to whom good manners came naturally, and a man of tolerance and understanding for people of social backgrounds very different from his own. This man journeyed through a life of seventy-five years shedding light and doing good to everyone he met along the way. This memory will endure for me, as will the fruits of his labor.

We all have to say goodbye to each other some day. It is a comfort to believe that in some way we will one day meet again. But I do not think I will ever again meet anyone like our friend Howard Wiseman.

Bernard Bush
December 13, 2003

DUES RENEWAL

Have you renewed your membership in the League for 2004? If not, we ask that you please do so. We want to be sure that your group's information is properly recorded for the League Directory, due out in March.

We thank the 137 organizations that have already renewed. The three newest members are:

The James Caldwell Memorial
Foundation
Soldiers-at-Rest, Civil War
League of Historical Societies of
West Essex

METLAR/BODINE HOUSE FIRE (continued from page seven)

50% of the archives were destroyed. "We've lost at least 100 years of history," said June Sadlowski, director of the museum. "We lost artwork. We lost photography."

In the post-fire recovery effort, museum employees combed the wreckage for salvageable antiques. One artifact that survived is the robe worn by Justice Charles Parker during the scandalous Hall-Mills murder trial of the 1920s. If you would be interested in helping the effort to restore the home, please email jpeach@rci.rutgers.edu. Donations can be sent to The Fellowship for Metlar House, PO Box 141, Piscataway, NJ 08855.

On July 4th, during last year's Road to Monmouth celebration, colonial troops returned to their Piscataway camp in the evening as the Metlar-Bodine House hosted a "Colonial Punch Party" to raise funds for the installation of the Ross Hall Wall. Ross Hall was General Washington's headquarters at Raritan Landing, Piscataway, during his stay in 1778. Although the house was demolished in the late 1950s, a beautifully crafted parlor, complete with paneled walls and corner display cabinets, was saved and exhibited for many years at the New Jersey Historical Society in Newark. The parlor, now stored at Rutgers University, was returned to Piscataway and will become a major exhibit at the Metlar-Bodine House in the near future.

In 1728 Peter Bodine, a wharf and storehouse owner, built the two-story house in Raritan Landing, just west of New Brunswick. It is one of two remaining homes from that Colonial port community that thrived from the 1730s to the 1830s. Over the years, later owners made changes that reflected 19th century New Brunswick, by then an industrial port on both the Raritan River and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. Metlar/Bodine house is on both the national and state historic registers.

In 1977 the state of New Jersey purchased the property for a new bridge and interchange project spanning the Raritan River. Concerned citizens came to the rescue of the house, which was certainly going to be destroyed. It is now owned by the New Jersey Department of Transportation and is well cared for by the Township of Piscataway and the non-profit organization, the Fellowship for Metlar House.

As a result of the fire, the Board of Trustees of the League has had to find new places to meet. In August, the meeting was held at the Henry Guest House, an 18th-century dwelling owned by the New Brunswick Public Library. In November, the Board met at the Runyon House in East Jersey Olde Towne, about a mile west of the Metlar House on River Road in Piscataway. These moves are considered temporary, although the damage to the

**MAP TO THE LEAGUE MEETING, HADDON HEIGHTS FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH, 7TH & GREEN STREETS, HADDON HEIGHTS**

REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2004
HADDON HEIGHTS FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
7TH & GARDEN STREETS, HADDON HEIGHTS, NJ 08035

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Society Name _____

Number Attending at \$20 per person _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Hot lunch will be served. Please make check payable to:
Haddon Heights Historical Society and mail to the HHHS, PO Box 118, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035
(856-546-1967)



The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey
P.O. Box 909
Madison, New Jersey 07940

Winter Meeting — Haddon Heights
Spring Meeting — Cranbury