



# LEAGUE NEWS

Montclair to Host  
League Meeting on  
October 23rd

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Article and  
registration form  
on page 9.

## ROCKINGHAM RE-OPENS AMID POMP AND PAGEANTRY

George Washington's last military headquarters has finally found a home! The Rockingham Association and the State Park System — and the history community as well — welcomed Rockingham to its new, permanent site in Kingston, Somerset County.

James Farrell and Dawn Fairchild, President and Vice President of the Association, greeted the crowd just before members of the Free and Accepted Masons presented the new flagpole. The U.S. Marines (John Basilone detachment) and the N.J. National Guard, assisted by Devin Giannini, raised the American flag. Rachel Yu performed the national anthem, and Mott's Artillery fired a cannon salute. After a poignant rendition of "Taps" by a lone bugler, the Westfield Fife and Drum Corps led the audience over the bridge and into the 18th century.

Mr. Farrell spoke of the people and partnerships whose work had made this day possible: Peggi Carlsen, curator and historic preservation specialist; Dawn Fairchild, who created the reproduction of Washington's uniform; members of the Stony Brook Garden Club, who researched and created the kitchen garden; the Masons, who donated the flagpole; officials of the State Park System, including D&R Canal State Park superintendent Susan Herron and Regional Superintendent Stephen Ellis; and the members of the Rockingham Association, who kept alive the dream of this new location for the mansion.

DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell noted New Jersey's role as "Crossroads of the Revolution" and the importance of preserving our many Revolutionary War historic sites. Then, Mr. Campbell, Peggi Carlsen, James Farrell, and Jose Fernandez, Director of Parks and Forestry, cut the ribbon, officially opening the mansion, as the crowd offered a sparkling cider toast to this long-awaited achievement.

Believed to be the second oldest home in the Millstone Valley, Rockingham was built by Jedidiah Higgins between 1702 and 1710. It was purchased by New Jersey Supreme Court Justice John Berrien in the 1730s and enlarged in 1764. Upon his death in 1772, the property passed to his wife, Margaret.

In 1783, when the Pennsylvania troops revolted and marched on Philadelphia, the Congress fled to Princeton. Elias Boudinot, president of the Congress, asked Washington to send a detachment of loyal troops and requested the General's presence. Trying to secure lodgings, Washington found that many of the owners of the best homes in Princeton would only agree to rent to the Washingtons for a full year. Mrs. Berrien, however, agreed to rent her home on a monthly basis.



(continued on page four)

DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell, Rockingham Historic Preservation Specialist Peggi Carlsen, Association President James Farrell, and Jose Fernandez, Director of Parks and Forestry, cut the ribbon to officially re-open the mansion.

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

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Jean Lacey, will present the following slate for election at the October League meeting:

President - Robert J. Hunter  
Haddon Heights Historical Society  
(two-year term)

First Vice President— J.B. Vogt  
Fellowship for Metlar House  
(two-year term)

Vice-President, Northern—  
John E. Chance  
Montclair Historical Society  
(two-year term)

Vice-President, Central—  
James T. Raleigh  
Friends of Monmouth Battlefield  
(two-year term)

Vice-President, Southern—  
Jean Lacey  
Ocean County Historical Society  
(two-year term)

Secretary— Kevin M. Hale  
Metuchen-Edison Historical Society (two-year term)

Treasurer— Dorothy M. Andrew  
Gloucester County Historical Society (two-year term)

Historian—Sally Yerkovich  
(two-year term)

Trustee, Southern—  
Sonia L. Forry  
Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township (four-year term)

Trustee, Southern—  
Douglas Winterich  
Burlington Cty Historical Society  
(four-year term)

Trustee-at-Large—  
Patricia Drummond  
Fair Haven Preservation Association (four-year term)  
(We apologize for the incorrect affiliation for Patricia in the May newsletter.)

Trustee, Northern—  
Betty Hardy  
Madison Historical Society  
(four-year term)

Trustee, Central—  
William Fidurski  
Clark Historical Society  
(four-year term)

The following incumbents will continue to serve, as their terms do not expire until 2006:

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

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

Trustee, Central— Rhett Pernot  
William Trent House Museum  
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**DEADLINE:** Submissions for the February issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than December 15, 2004. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; [barths@att.net](mailto:barths@att.net).

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

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

Membership Chairman  
Dorothy Pietrowski  
Madison Historical Society

Trustees Emeriti  
Bernard Bush  
Hightstown-East Windsor Historical Society

Ruth Kane Fern  
Passaic Cty. Historical Society

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members:

I am asking you to help the League by inviting your members to attend our meetings. Please announce our meeting details in your newsletter and at your next meeting. Let all your members know that they are welcome at these events, hosted by a local society. Each meeting features a great program about the host's local history, and the League presents concise news that can affect all historical societies in New Jersey.

Let your members know that the modest cost includes a light breakfast and full lunch. All of your members are welcome, not just the League delegates.

Your society can now submit 2004 publications for consideration by our awards committee.

Continue to check [www.lhsnj.org](http://www.lhsnj.org) for news of grants and other information. Let me know via the webmaster your thoughts about what the League can do for you.

Please ask your treasurer if your group has paid its \$20 dues for 2004, and remember that the \$20 for 2005 is due in November. Your League Board has decided not to ask for an increase in dues for 2005, even though expenses are now exceeding dues income.

Bob Hunter

## IDEAS-4-U

by Jack Chance

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

Jack Chance offers program ideas from your sister organizations. Listed here are some recent programs offered by our member organizations. For further information, please contact the sponsoring organization (in italics). Your membership list has the contact information.

### **The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH)**, a nonprofit organization, was established in 1973 as the state partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's Horizons Speakers Bureau provides lecturers in humanities areas as wide-ranging as ethnic and cultural studies, history, literature, interpretation of the arts, and public policy. These programs, available to New Jersey nonprofit organizations, are free and open to the public and include time for audience discussion. More than 170 topics by over 70 speakers are available for selection. During 2003, over 225 programs were hosted by organizations from Sussex to Atlantic County.

Any New Jersey nonprofit organization that is able to provide an appropriate site and an audience of thirty or more people is eligible to apply. Programs are frequently hosted by libraries, historical societies, museums, civic associations, public agencies, senior centers, and other community groups. NJCH reserves the right to give preference to organizations that have not previously hosted speakers.

Each organization may register for two programs within a one-year period beginning with the date of the first presentation.

There is a one-year registration fee of \$75 that must be paid when the application for the first program is submitted.

You may contact the Council at 609-695-4838 or visit them on the web at [www.njch.org](http://www.njch.org).

### **Other Program Ideas from Our Sister Organizations:**

**The Hamilton-Burr Duel.** Ronald Goldberger, of the New Jersey Historical Commission, speaks of the July 1804 duel between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. Mr. Goldberger believes that Burr has been treated unfairly by history. *Bloomfield Historical Society.*

**New Jersey Resort Architecture.** Slide program about New Jersey resort architecture from the mid-19th century houses of Cape May to the postwar motels of Wildwood. *Historical Society of Riverton.*

**Victorian Women: Life in the Cocoon.** Slide presentation and talk by Mary Stewart tells how Victorian women of the upper classes were idealized as wives and mothers, but were sheltered from the real world in the cocoon of their homes by Victorian men.

*Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township.*

**Data Base for Preservation.** A conglomerate of preservation and historical organizations is creating a data base for the entire historic district of Ocean Grove. It will enable residents to find all known historical information about their homes, including all past owners, style, builders, architects and history. *Historical Society of Ocean Grove.*

**"American Girls" Victorian Tea Party.** Participants, including children, are invited to sample finger sandwiches, wear their finest Victorian clothes, and bring their American Girl dolls. *Montclair Historical Society.*



## 9TH ANNUAL ARCHIVES DAY

The 9th annual Archives and History Day will be held on October 16 at the Monmouth County Library in Manalapan. Please hold the date! Last year, seventy-five history organizations had table exhibits and more than 300 people attended. Workshops during Archives Week are being scheduled and will be announced in the coming months.

For further information, please contact: Gary Saretzky, Archivist, County of Monmouth, [gsaretzk@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:gsaretzk@co.monmouth.nj.us), or Mary Knox, [Mknox@co.monmouth.nj.us](mailto:Mknox@co.monmouth.nj.us).

## ROCKINGHAM OPENING (continued from page one)

On August 23, the General, accompanied by his wife, a small guard of 12-24 men, and servants, took up residence at Rockingham. It proved to be a pleasant stay, and the General entertained many dignitaries, including Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and Thomas Paine. When he received word that the Treaty of Paris had been signed on September 3, 1783, the General composed his "Farewell Orders to the Armies of the United States." In it, he recognized the service of his countrymen and announced his retirement from public life, a deliberate move that sent the message that he did not want to be the new nation's king. On October 30, 1783, the "Farewell Orders" were dispatched to General Henry Knox at Newburgh, New York, and the document was read to the troops on November 2nd. On November 10th (Mrs. Washington and the servants having gone ahead), the General and his soldiers left for West Point and New York City. He and Martha then retired to Mount Vernon and the long-hoped-for life of a gentleman farmer.

In 1802 Mrs. Berrien sold the house to Frederick Cruser, who lived there until 1841; during that time the house underwent renovations, including the addition of a front porch. The property changed hands several times. By the mid-1890s the Rocky Hill Quarry Company owned Rockingham and used it as quarters for its workers.

In 1896 two local residents organized the Washington Headquarters Association, which bought the house for \$1200 and the adjoining land for \$1, and moved the house farther away from the quarry. The State of New Jersey acquired the property in 1935 and, in 1956, moved it farther from the advancing quarry. On July 20, 2001, the mansion was moved to its current location.

Rockingham has been restored and painted in colors suitable to the colonial period. The kitchen wing has been rebuilt, and an 18th century garden has been planted. With the addition of a historic barn, several outbuildings, and an orchard, this 27-acre site will look much as it did when General Washington stayed there.

The new site features guided tours of the mansion and a children's museum. Domestic chores, such as open hearth cooking and spinning, will be demonstrated during special events.



DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell addresses the crowd gathered in front of the historic mansion.

## HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

### Our Long Endurance: New Jersey in the Civil War

Two-year exhibit focusing on the role of New Jersey throughout the Civil War. Lecture series and educational programming to be offered. Group & school tours welcome. Cornelius Low House/Middlesex County Museum; Piscataway, NJ; **November 16, 2004 thru December 31, 2005**; 732-745-4489; [www.cultureheritage.org](http://www.cultureheritage.org).

Civil War Reenactment - Allentown, NJ; held in a 38-acre park, a short walk from Civil War period Allentown. Held in conjunction with annual Harvest Festival. Unscripted battles both days and a Saturday evening candle light tour with an evening ball. The event features a vintage baseball game. **October 9-10, 2004**; 732-951-9013; [www.14thnjvir.org](http://www.14thnjvir.org).

### 2004 New Jersey Lighthouse Challenge

Join lighthouse enthusiasts from all over the country in visiting New Jersey's 11 land-based lighthouses in one weekend. **October 16-17, 2004**; 609-449-1360; [www.abseconlighthouse.org](http://www.abseconlighthouse.org)

### In the Footsteps of Thomas Paine

Bordentown was Thomas Paine's American hometown. Learn about his life in this colorful historic enclave of American

history. Free walking tours first Saturdays **June to November**. Thomas Paine Society of Bordentown, Bordentown, NJ, **through November, 2004**; Wishmaker Book Store, Farnsworth & Church Streets, Bordentown, NJ; 609-324-9909.

#### Victorian Ladies Costume Exhibit

Culled from the collections of costume designer Ellen Christine, this exhibit will feature Victorian ladies' walking suits and accessories to portray the many clothing changes a privileged woman would have donned throughout the day. **Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts**, 1048 Washington Street, P.O. Box 340, Cape May; 800) 275-4278; **September 10, 2004 thru January 2, 2005**; [www.capemaymac.org](http://www.capemaymac.org)

#### A Wise and Understanding People: A Study of Several Jewish Nobel Prize Winners

Come listen to Dr. Mildred Goodwin! Monroe Township Jewish Center, Monroe Township, NJ; **September 13, 2004**; 732-251-1119; [www.jewishgen.org/jhscj](http://www.jewishgen.org/jhscj)

#### Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America

Author Linda Lawrence Hunt will discuss her book, "Bold Spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America." Join us at Paulsdale to hear about this amazing woman and her daughter and the interesting stops they made along the way. Alice Paul Institute, 128 Hooton Road, Mt. Laurel, NJ; **September 14, 2004**; Tue from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM; FREE ; 856-231-1885; [www.alicepaul.org](http://www.alicepaul.org).

#### Mount Tabor House Tour

The Mount Tabor Historical Society hosts its eleventh annual House Tour; rain or shine; \$15.00 per person; Mt. Tabor is a stop on the NJ Transit Morris & Essex line; **October 2, 2004**; Beth Shaw, 973-586-1564; Route 53, Mt. Tabor; [www.mounttabornj.org](http://www.mounttabornj.org).

#### Enduring Tuberculosis: America's Quest for a Cure

New Jersey Historical Society exhibit. New Jersey played a pivotal role in the fight against the disease. *Enduring Tuberculosis: America's Quest for a Cure* explores the science and the history of the disease. Through primary sources, photographs, and objects, this exhibit provides visitors with an historical context for tuberculosis, a disease once deemed "cured" but now making an alarming comeback. The exhibit will run through January 2005; [www.jerseyhistory.org](http://www.jerseyhistory.org)

#### Let Me Play Again: Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Cancer, and the 1954 U.S. Women's

United States Golf Association Museum, through March 31, 2005; *Let Me Play Again* tells the remarkable story of an Olympic champion's comeback from cancer to win the Women's Open by 12 shots. In conjunction with the exhibition, the museum will present a series of educational programs targeted at children and adults. The museum is located at 77 Liberty Corner Road, Fair Hills, NJ. For more information, visit the website at [www.usga.org/news/2004/march/zaharias.asp](http://www.usga.org/news/2004/march/zaharias.asp) or contact the USGA at 908-234-2300.

#### Tea for Three: Lady Bird, Pat and Betty

Emmy-award winner, Elaine Bromka, as Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon, and Betty Ford in a play offering insight, with humor and poignancy, into each woman's life. Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown; **January 16, 2005**; Sun at 2:00 PM; \$13 - \$27; 973-971-3700; [www.morrismuseum.org](http://www.morrismuseum.org)

#### The Home Front — WWII

An exhibition of artifacts and pictures, contributed by members, exploring the war's effect on daily life in the community; includes wartime industries, civilian defense, and the presence of enemy prisoners of war housed in the area. **Now through the end of 2004**; Salem County Historical Society. 856-935-5004; [www.salemcounty.com/schs](http://www.salemcounty.com/schs)





## WILL YOU PLEASE HELP US SPREAD THE LEAGUE NEWS?

Please feel free to share any or all of the articles in this newsletter with your members. If you wish the information in electronic form, just email the administrator, Linda Barth, at [barths@att.net](mailto:barths@att.net) and she will be happy to send you any articles you request.

We would also appreciate your announcing the next League meeting in your own newsletter. Please invite your members to join us in October at Montclair and at all future League meetings.



### LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP REPORT

For the year 2004, the Membership Chairman, Dorothy Pietrowski, reports that 189 member organizations have paid their dues, and we thank them.

Has your organization done so? If you are not sure that your dues are up to date, please call Dorothy at 973-377-7023.

The 2004 Directory is available. It lists all organizations belonging to the League. Send for your copy.

1 copy	\$1.00
2 copies	\$1.50
3-4 copies	\$2.50

Just send a check, payable to the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey (LHSNJ) to:  
LHSNJ, P.O. Box 909, Madison, New Jersey 07940



## ARCHIVES POSTS 1776 STATE CONSTITUTION ON THE INTERNET

Chief of Archives Joseph Klett has announced the posting of the original New Jersey State Constitution of 2 July 1776, complete with full-sized images and transcriptions of the nine manuscript pages. Link to the document from the "New Jersey State Constitutions" page at: <http://www.njarchives.org/links/constitution.html>

The first and last (signature) pages of the original document--New Jersey's declaration of independence from the British crown--were on exhibit at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia as part of NCC's extraordinary, interactive exhibition on the history of American constitutional freedom.

Publications Archivist Veronica Calder is to be commended for her excellent work on the Archives' new "Documentary Treasures" pages. Thanks also to the other DARM staff who supported this effort. More coming as soon as we are able!



## SAVE THE DATE — SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2004

New Jersey Historical Commission's 20th Annual Conference  
Slavery and Abolition in New Jersey:  
The 200th Anniversary of New Jersey's 1804 law  
for the gradual abolition of slavery

Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard and the War Memorial  
For more information, call the New Jersey Historical Commission, 609-292-

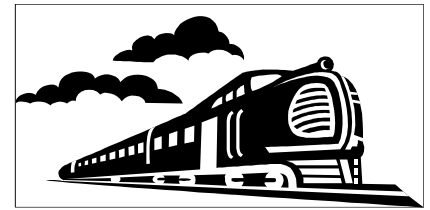


## ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey announces the **ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM** and invites its member organizations to submit entries. Awards will be given for works published in the year 2004, in the following categories: BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSLETTERS, JOURNALS, CALENDARS, and MEDIA (AUDIO CASSETTES/CDs, VIDEO CASSETTES/DVDS)

For works published in 2004, awards will be presented at the League meeting in March 2005. Deadline for submission of entries: **JANUARY 15, 2005**. Thereafter, awards will be presented each year in March, and the deadline will be **JANUARY 15**. Send entries to: **Publication Awards Committee, League of Historical Societies of NJ, New Jersey Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark, NJ 07102**.

For further information, contact Linda Barth, Administrator, LHSNJ, at 908-722-7428, [barths@att.net](mailto:barths@att.net), 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.



Along the tracks ...

As plans progress to ship marine cargo and garbage from Staten Island into New Jersey by rail, potential traffic and proximity effects on historic and cultural resources have not been well elucidated. An anticipated quadrupling of Port Authority traffic will put pressure on both freight lines and track that has most recently served primarily for passenger service, including the Chemical Coast Line, Lehigh Valley Railroad, West Trenton Line, Raritan Valley Line, Pascack Valley Line, Staten Island Railway, Rahway Valley Railway, Erie-Lackawanna, Boonton Branch of the Erie-Lackawanna, Reading System, and the New York, Susquehanna & Western.

In addition, there are numerous, state-owned, abandoned rail lines throughout the New Jersey that may suddenly become desirable for absorbing freight increases and connecting to Foreign Free Trade Zones. Of late, the federal Surface Transportation Board has allowed summary reactivation of such lines without environmental or historic review under a purported loophole in federal regulations.

Research into Interstate Commerce Commission regulations back to 1980 has, however, revealed that Congress never intended to allow reactivation of long-abandoned rail without suitable review. Legislative intent in this regard is discussed in Common Carrier Status of States, State Agencies and Instrumentalities, and Political Subdivisions, 363 I.C.C. 132, 136 (1980).

Local groups confronted by potential adverse effects in this regard may wish to contact LHSNJ Preservation Committee Chair and Regulatory Advisor William Fidurski at 732-388-6293 or Wfidurski@aol.com for further information.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR...FOR THE WINTER LEAGUE MEETING



The League's Winter Meeting will be held at the headquarters of the Atlantic County Historical Society in Somers Point on Saturday, March 12, 2005. We are currently looking for a Central New Jersey society to sponsor the spring meeting in June 2005.

### AUDUBON RECEIVES REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ATTENTION FOR PROJECTS FOCUSING ON THE BOROUGH'S HISTORY

In May 2004, Arcadia Publishing released the latest in its series of "Images of America": *The Pictorial History of Audubon, New Jersey, The Most Patriotic Small Town in America.* Research for the 128-page photographic salute was done by Audubon Historical Society members Craig E. Burgess, Walter Casebeer, Ed Helmes, Richard Magee, and Jack Taylor. The project was completed in preparation for the 100th anniversary celebration in Audubon in 2005. Proceeds from sales will help the local society plan for future programs.

A second major project was the production of a patriotic documentary film focusing on one of Audubon's three Medal of Honor recipients. The short documentary, "Onward with Valor: The Story of Edward C. Benfold," was produced by the Nicholas Calabria Production Company in Carlsbad, California, and released in early June. It was shown for the first time in public at a Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in Memory of Edward C. Benfold at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Haddon Heights, on June 13.

League members interested in learning more about these projects may contact society president Craig E. Burgess, 327 Washington Terrace, Audubon 08106; 856-547-2440. *The Pictorial History of Audubon* costs \$19.99 and is available from the Audubon Historical Society, 150 Edgewood Avenue, Audubon, NJ 08106.





## CRANBURY HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY SPONSORS LEAGUE'S SPRING MEETING

On June 19th the members of the League gathered at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall in Cranbury for the spring meeting. After the League business meeting, Patti Long presented "Whispers from the Grave: Cranbury's Revolutionary War Patriots Buried in Brainerd Cemetery." This PowerPoint program detailed a Memorial Day remembrance in which local residents portrayed Colonial citizens, greeting visitors at the exact burial site and describing their roles at the time of the American Revolution.

Mark Nonestied, Cemetery Preservation Consultant, followed with slides of the many types of gravestones in the Cemetery, some with the signatures of noted stonecarvers, indicating some of the damage and deterioration incurred over the years. He concluded his talk with recommendations for future care, maintenance and preservation of this historic cemetery. The historic Cranbury Inn provided a delicious four-course lunch, after which guests embarked on self-guided tours of the village, with stops at the History Center, the Gourgaud Gallery, and the Cranbury Museum. The League is most grateful to Betty Wagner and the society members who planned an informative and entertaining day.



Bobbie Kozinski, Ginny Swanagan, and Barabara Hannon at the sales table during the spring League meeting.



Treasurer Dot Andrew, President Bob Hunter, Trustee Emeritus Bernie Bush, and First Vice President J.B. Vogt await their lunch at the historic Cranbury Inn.



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

**Fall Meeting — Montclair— October 23, 2004**  
**Winter Meeting — Atlantic County—March 12, 2005**  
**Spring Meeting— Central New Jersey (TBA)**

Visit the League at:  
**[www.lhsnj.org](http://www.lhsnj.org)**