



LEAGUE NEWS

**The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jer-**

Atlantic County to
Host League
Meeting on
March 12th

Article and
registration form
on page 11.

LEAGUE RECOGNIZED BY NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

At the New Jersey Historical Commission's Annual Conference on November 20th, the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey was recognized for its role in promoting the history of New Jersey. The text of the commission's citation appears below:

"The League of Historical Societies is honored for its important role in promoting interest in the history of New Jersey. The League was founded in 1967, following the New Jersey Tercentenary and the Civil War Centennial. These two events spurred general interest in the state's past. A number of local

and statewide historical groups were established in this period, and in 1965, these groups met to discuss how the state's numerous local societies might come together for the regular exchange of information and ideas and for cooperative action in pursuit of their mutual interests. Since that period, the League has steadily built a statewide organization of organizations to fulfill its mission.

"It now numbers some 300 member societies representing over 65,000 individual members. It is by far the largest grass roots organization devoted to New Jersey history, and it has played a role of crucial importance in public activities to protect state historical programs.

"To fulfill its mission, the League relies solely on the volunteer efforts of its governing board and other members; it has no headquarters or other operating resources; its only source of funds is nominal membership dues which provide an annual budget of about \$5,000. Despite this handicap, it has established itself as an important voice for the hundreds of small local historical societies that are in direct contact with New Jersey's communities (and with their legislators). And through the years it has provided these societies with a sense of themselves as a public interest group with a statewide mission to serve the people of New Jersey."

We thank the New Jersey Historical Commission for recognizing the League with this award.

New Executive Director Named to D&R Canal Commission

Ernest Hahn, formerly DEP's Assistant Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs, has recently been appointed as the Executive Director of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission. He is only the second person to hold that position.

Mr. Hahn replaces James E. Amon, who has served as the executive director since September 1975, just shortly after the Legislature created the D&R Canal State Park. During his nearly 30-year tenure, Mr. Amon oversaw vast changes in the canal park, including improvement and lengthening of the towpath trail; building of paths on the berm bank; addition of new parking areas for visitors; restoration of canal houses, culverts, aqueducts, and spillways; installation of interpretive signage; building of pedestrian bridges; and much, much more.

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

At the October League meeting, the following slate was approved for election:

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)

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

Trustee, Southern—
June Sheridan
Atlantic County Historical Society
(four-year term)

Trustee-at-Large—
Patricia Drummond
Historical Association of
Fair Haven (four-year term)

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

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

Historian—Sally Yerkovich
(two-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

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 County Historical Society

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Members:

The New Jersey Historical Commission recently recognized your League of New Jersey Historical Societies for nearly forty years of service to the local historical societies. The League has a volunteer board that tries to provide services that somehow connect the many, diverse local societies to exchange information. The three meetings around the State, the *League News* and our website (www.lhsnj.org) serve as our media of exchange.

Please note that I mentioned a volunteer Board. As I see it, your Board could still use some help from members who would like to implement ideas and formulate policy statements. Anyone interested in serving on a committee that would address how the New Jersey State Library and the regional library cooperatives could help local societies with their collections? If so, please contact me or Linda Barth, our part-time administrator. In addition, our Preservation Committee needs a few members. Please consider sharing your talents with the League. It's very rewarding.

As always, let us know what we are doing right and what needs improvement.

Sincerely,
Bob Hunter
bhunte@camden.lib.nj.us

DEADLINE: Submissions for the April issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than March 15, 2005. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barths@att.net.

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

*** SAVE THE DATE * SAVE THE DATE * SAVE THE DATE* SAVE THE DATE ***

**Smart Cities: Blending Old With New
2005 Historic Preservation Conference
April 15, 2005 - Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ**

Channeling redevelopment into New Jersey's urban and densely developed communities to create a strong economy while preserving the essential character of the older built environment poses many challenges. This year's conference will explore the relationship between developing good public policy, targeting incentives, and recognizing opportunity in re-investing in the rich fabric of NJ's past.

The keynote speaker will be Doug Rae, professor of Political Science at Yale University, former chief administrative officer of New Haven, and noted author of City, Urbanism and its End. The afternoon will feature concurrent workshops focused on redevelopment tools, financial incentives, adapting unique resources, and opportunities to tour the rich heritage of Jersey City. Participants will also hear from former Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening, champion of Smart Growth and current President of the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, as the closing speaker.

Co-sponsors: NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Historic Preservation Office & Division of Parks and Forestry; Preservation New Jersey; Jersey City Historic Preservation Commission; and Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy.

For additional information, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/4sustain/sustain.htm#hpoconf>
Phone, NJ Historic Preservation Office: 609-292-2023.



American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) State Awards

Last year New Jersey institutions received five awards from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). We hope to exceed that number this year!

Every year the AASLH solicits applications for its annual awards program. Now in its 60th year, the Awards Program is the most prestigious national recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of local, state, and regional history. The Awards Program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States.

The AASLH Awards Program recognizes exemplary work completed by state or federal historical societies, institutions, or agencies; regional, county or local historical societies, institutions, or agencies; specialized subject societies in related fields such as oral history, genealogy, folklore, archaeology, business history, railroad history, etc.; junior historical societies; privately owned museums or foundations; individuals; and organizations outside the field of traditional historical agencies. Awards are given for general excellence, exhibits, public programming, special projects, media/publications, individual achievement, and preservation or restoration projects. Nominees need not be members of AASLH to qualify.

For more information or to obtain nomination forms, email Gail Stern (gail@princetonhistory.org) or Jim Turk (James.Turk@sos.state.nj.us). You may also visit the AASLH web site, www.aaslh.org, or contact the AASLH office by phone (615-320-3203) or by email (history@aslh.org).

Nominations are due to state award representatives by March 1, 2005. Nominations will then be reviewed by a national committee in the summer of 2005, and presentation of the awards will be made during the AASLH/PFMHO Annual Meeting, September 21-24, 2005, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY PUBLICATION AWARDS



The following awards for works published in 2000-2003 were presented at the League meeting in Montclair on October 23, 2004:

BOOKS

First Prize - "New Jersey's Sour Mountain," by T. James Luce (published by the Sourland Planning Council; submitted by the Van Harlingen Historical Society, which was associated with the publication)

Second Prize - "Lake Hopatcong Then & Now" (published by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum)

BOOKLETS

First Prize - "George Washington in Cranbury," by John W. Chambers II (published by the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society)

Second Prize - "Reverend James and Hannah Caldwell," by Michael R. Yesenko and William Frolich (published by the Union Township Historical Society)

PAMPHLETS

First Prize - "Eve of the Battle of Monmouth" (published by the Historic Preservation Commission of Monroe Township)

Second Prize - "Historic Homes in the Township of Union, Union County, New Jersey," by Jean Rae Turner and Richard T. Koles (published by the Union Township Historical Society)

NEWSLETTERS

First Prize - "Hopewell Valley Historical Society Newsletter" (published by the Hopewell Valley Historical Society)

Second Prize - "Meadowview" (published by the Meadowlands Museum)

Third Prize - "Nannygoats" (published by the Metuchen-Edison Historical Society)

VIDEOTAPES

First Prize - "Greetings from Bertrand Island" (videotape, produced by the Lake Hopatcong Historical Museum)

We congratulate all of the winners and urge our member organizations to submit publications for the 2004 awards. See the bottom of page 9 for details. To contact the prize winners, email the League at barths@att.net or call 908-722-7428.

IDEAS-4-U

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 Sus-

sex 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.

**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, 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 on March 12th at meeting in Somers Point and at all future League meetings.

Thanks so much!

Save America's Treasures Grant Awarded!!!

Joseph Klett, Chief of Archives, is pleased to announce that the State Archives' conservation proposal, "**The American Revolution in New Jersey: Preserving our Documentary Heritage**," will be fully funded by the Save America's Treasures program. The award of \$346,700 will be made available early this year; the state Public Records Preservation Fund is to be the source of the Archives' \$283K match.

In making the award, Barbara Paulson, Senior Program Officer at the National Endowment for the Humanities, noted that this project will devote nearly \$700K to the conservation of over 5,200 leaves of Revolutionary War manuscripts documenting the struggle for American independence and New Jersey's role in the military, political and social conflict. Included are militia records, Loyalist papers, court books documenting treason cases, records relating to property loss and wartime turmoil, and many other groups of manuscripts. The documents included in the proposal comprise about 6% of the State Archives' holdings relative to the war.

Mr. Klett also reports that out of an estimated 400+ grant proposals, New Jersey State Archives' proposal apparently received the highest score and is therefore SAT's highest national priority. He thanks and acknowledges his co-grantwriter, Ellen Callahan; the other staff of the Archives who contributed to and supported the application; and the staff of the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia for their key role in cost estimating and the conservation plan. Look for additional announcements relative to the details of the project, which will soon be posted on the archives website: www.state.nj.us/state/darm/

VIDEOS CREATED FOR YOUR HISTORIC SITE!

Does your historic site need an eye-catching, exciting video presentation?
Is it part of your handicapped accessibility requirement?



History Village, a new organization, produces videos for history organizations that want to add to the interpretation of their sites. Recently, the firm created a video for the Cornelius Low House in Piscataway; History Village is under contract to work with the Rockingham State Historic Site in Kingston.

Nicholas and Alex Saretzky and several colleagues founded this company to make videos for historic sites and museums. Alex, a fine arts major at Alfred University, is a web designer and the creative director of the firm. Fred Broehm, a film studies student at NYU, is the videographer, and Nick, who majors in interactive digital media at The College of New Jersey, is the video editor.

These videos can be used for promotion, for off-site classroom instruction, for ADA compliance (to allow virtual access to upper floors, for example), and for sales in gift shops.

League members interested in having a professional quality video made at a very reasonable cost may wish to consider getting a quote and including it in a grant proposal for the coming year. **History Village** has a demo video available concerning the Anderson-Capner House in Lawrenceville. For further information, please contact Alex Saretzky at 609-468-4171; <http://historyvillage.com>



HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

First Annual Celebrate New Jersey Days—all local, county and state groups are urged to celebrate the firsts and bests in their community and their role in New Jersey history during the week of **June 18-June 26, 2005**. Sponsored by Crossroads of the American Revolution Association; www.RevolutionaryNJ.org; info@RevolutionaryNJ.org; 732-721-1047.

***We urge everyone and every town
to celebrate our great state of New Jersey.***

An 1830s Celebration of George Washington's Birthday—Enjoy birthday cake, patriotic oration, commemorative poetry, and a procession through the village. **February 20, 2005**; Noon - 3 pm. Program at 1 pm. Free admission; Allaire Village, 4265 Atlantic Ave., Farmingdale, NJ, 07727; 732-919-3500; www.allairevillage.org.

Constructing America III: Industry and Modernity—Get an inside look at this exhibit with a guided tour; **Sunday, March 6**; 1:00 pm; free with admission (\$2-\$4); Jersey City Museum, 350 Montgomery Street, Jersey City; 201-413-0303; www.jerseycitymuseum.org

12th Annual History Issues Convention: Theme: "Lifting Ourselves By Our Bootstraps: Building Healthy History Organizations"; Friday, **March 11, 2005**; Trenton War Memorial; Keynote Speaker: David Grant, Director of the Dodge Foundation; 609-292-6062.

Victorian A to Z—An exhibit presenting an encyclopedia of the Victorian Era. Learn about the people, places and events that paved the way for the modern world; **through March 13, 2005**; Acorn Hall, 68 Morris Avenue, Morristown; 973-267-3465; www.acornhall.org.

Day of Sussex History—Sussex County Community College, **Saturday, April 30**, 9 am-3 pm; questions, Contact the Sussex County Historical Society, 973-383-6010; www.sussexcountyhistory.org; schs@tellurian.com

Sandy Hook Coastal Defenses Day—Mark Armed Forces Day with an afternoon of tours and living history presentations at the gun batteries and Nike missile sites that once defended New York Harbor. **Saturday, May 14, 2005**; noon - 4 pm; sponsored by the National Park Service; Fort Hancock Museum; 732-872-7733. **Delaware Bay Days Festival**—One of the largest free festivals in the tri-state region is held along the Maurice River and Delaware Bay in the historic New Jersey fishing villages of Bivalve, Shellpile, Port Norris and the East Point Lighthouse in Heislerville. An oyster-shucking contest, bluecrab races, living maritime history exhibits, children's games and activities, crafters/artisans, fresh seafood and local fare; parade and lighted boat parade and fireworks (Sat.) and free deck tours of New Jersey's tall ship, the Schooner A. J. MEERWALD; free admission and parking; call 856-785-2060 x100 for further information; **Saturday, Sunday, June 4-5, 2005**; www.ajmeerwald.org; www.bayshorediscoveryproject.org

Waterloo Canal Day—Enjoy canal-era food and music, ride a mule, tour the canal sites in historic Waterloo Village. **Saturday, June 11, 2005**; Waterloo Village, Exit 25, Route 80, Stanhope; co-sponsored by the Canal Society of New Jersey; 908-722-9556; www.CanalSocietyNJ.org; www.waterloovillage.org.

Annual Reenactment of the Battle of Monmouth—Reenactment of the 1778 Battle of Monmouth, the largest land artillery battle of the American Revolution; the event features troop encampments, drills, living history, tactical demonstrations, and colonial music, crafts and gifts. **Saturday, Sunday, June 18-19, 2005**; Monmouth Battlefield State Park, 347 Freehold Englishtown Rd., Freehold; ; 732-462-9616; www.njparksandforests.org.

Seafood and Music Festival—Stroll the Tuckerton Seaport and sample delicious Jersey fresh clams, crabs and shrimp from the finest seafood purveyors. After you satisfy you appetite, move your feet to the beat of live, top-tapping entertainment. Bring the family and your beach chairs and plan to spend the whole day. **Saturday, June 25, 2005**; Tuckerton Seaport, 120 West Main Street, Tuckerton, NJ; ; Sat, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; \$8; \$3, children; 609-296-8868; www.tuckertonseaport.org

Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence—Ranger in period garb entertains the crowd and gives a “kid-level” explanation of the document, followed by the official reading. **Monday, July 4, 2005**; Warm-up at noon; actual reading at 1:00 pm; Morristown National Historical Park, 30 Washington Place, Morristown; 973-539-2016; www.nps.gov/morr.

Christmas in July—Crafters, quilters, and the Lost Art Lacers will exhibit and demonstrate; museum tours will feature period decorations and the sights and smells of Christmas; **July 22-24, 2005**; \$4; the Chinchewunska Chapter of the D.A.R; Route 23, north of Sussex (follow the signs); 973-875-7634.

Mount Tabor House Tour—The Mount Tabor Historical Society hosts its Twelfth Annual House Tour; rain or shine; **Saturday, October 1, 2005**; \$15.00 per person; Mt. Tabor is a stop on the NJ Transit Morris & Essex line; Beth Shaw, 973-586-1564; Route 53, Mt. Tabor; www.mounttabornj.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. **Saturday, Sunday, October 15-16, 2005**; 609-449-1360; www.njlhs.burlco.org; www.abseconlighthouse.org.

World War II in Cape May Exhibit—the war effort in Cape May and the changing face of Cape May's landscape as a result of the war; **May 27-September 5, 2005**; Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts, 1048

NEW WEBSITES AVAILABLE FOR ARCHIVES USERS

Here's a website update for the State Archives. Available guides have now been posted for collections listed on the pages below. Use the "Click here!" link for "Finding Aids" in the online catalog entries. While some are simple lists of reel or volume contents, others are lengthier guides including institutional histories and item-level descriptions of documents. Start from the following pages to see what has been added:

Cape May County Records (Clerk/Courts and Surrogate):

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/ccpclerk.html>

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/ccpsurro.html>

Cumberland County Records (Clerk/Courts and Surrogate):

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/ccuclerk.html>

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/ccusurro.html>

Essex County Records (Clerk, Courts and Surrogate):

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/cesclerk.html>

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/cescourt.html>

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/cessurro.html>

Municipal Records (seven subsidiary pages linked from here):

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/municipal.html>

Personal and Family Papers (A-G, H-P, R-Z):

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/pfamily1.html>

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/pfamily2.html>

<http://www.njarchives.org/links/webcat/queries/pfamily3.html>

NOTE: The State Archives does not typically accession collections of personal and family papers unless they contain early land records or relate to early government officials. Special acknowledgement goes to Veronica Calder and Lois Bredlow for their fine work to prepare the guides for posting online. Happy hunting.

Joseph R. Klett, Chief of Archives

LEAGUE ANNUAL PUBLICATION AWARDS PROGRAM

The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey announces its **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 Somers Point on **March 12, 2005**. Deadline for submission of entries: **JANUARY 31, 2005**. Please 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, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.

FIRST-PERSON INTERPRETATION OF MANY NEW JERSEY CHARACTERS

Michael J. Doyle is a historical interpreter who brings to life many characters with New Jersey connections. Mr. Doyle can bring to your society any of these amazing and fascinating characters and topics:

The Ghost of Dr. Jonathan Pitney ("The Father of Atlantic City"); Dr. Pitney and the Camden and Atlantic Railroad; Sarah Spencer Washington, the inventor of the hair-straightening process and owner of the Brigantine Hotel; John Phillip Sousa; Miss Salt Water Taffy; Ida Bright, the 1st black in Atlantic City; King Neptune; Margaret Gorman, the first Miss America; Lillian Russell, entertainer; Mr. Gadget, who sold the Vegematic on the Boardwalk; Harry Duke, who tells Rum Runner stories; Charles Darrow, inventor of Monopoly; and Sonora Carver, the Girl on the High Diving Horse.

You can contact Michael Doyle at P.O. Box 692, Atlantic City, New Jersey 08401; 609-377-4229; michaeljdoyle@att.net. Dr.pitney@att.net

MARK YOUR CALENDAR...FOR THE SPRING LEAGUE MEETING



The League's Spring Meeting will be held at Springfield, in Union County, on Saturday, June 4, 2005. The Fall Meeting will be held at Closter in Bergen County on a Saturday in October to be announced.

In Memoriam: Donald Sinclair—To Those Who Knew Him, and To Those Who Didn't

I would like to take a few minutes to pay tribute to the late Donald Arleigh Sinclair, bibliographer, librarian, archivist, genealogist, historian, husband, father and grandfather. Don was a mentor to many of us, and an inspiration to all of us in the New Jersey library and history communities. He was truly a remarkable man whose tenacity, attention to detail, astounding productivity, and friendly disposition were well known to everyone who had contact with him.

I met Don when I joined the board of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey in 1988. He was president of the Society, and at that time monthly meetings of the trustees were held in his dining room in Highland Park during the winter months. As has been noted, Don had already served on the board for nearly fifty years by then, having taken a break to serve his country during World War II. Don had already retired from Special Collections, so although I was myself a library student (as, I believe, Don was when he joined the GSNJ board) and a graduate assistant at Special Collections, I did not have the pleasure of working with him in that setting. Don was, nonetheless, already a legend in his own time--at Rutgers and in every other research institution in New Jersey.

Over the years, through GSNJ and through experience within historical and genealogical circles, my respect and admiration for Don and his professional, bibliographic and editorial careers have continually increased. His devotion to Special Collections and the priceless materials in their care (in good part collected during his own lengthy tenure there) was phenomenal. More than a decade after his retirement, he was still coming into Special Collections regularly, working on one of his bibliographies or abstracting projects. And if you happened to see him, he would gladly tell you about his current project, its related intricacies, and his related idiosyncrasies! And you always knew two things: one, that his project would result in a fantastic resource; and two, that it was something no one else would have had the patience or knowledge to produce. Many others like his good friend Ron Becker, other colleagues at Rutgers, and other librarians, archivists and historians around the state are much better qualified to memorialize Don than I am, and I'm sure they will. Don will be missed dearly by the board members of the Genealogical Society of New Jersey. Several of the trustees have had enduring friendships with Don, perhaps most of all Dorothy Stratford, his faithful friend and great fan for many decades. We offer our condolences to Don's family, to his many friends, and to the staff of Special Collections.

Thanks, Don, for all you did.

Joseph Klett

LEAGUE MEETING, MARCH 12, 2005, SOMERS POINT

The Atlantic County Historical Society welcomes the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey to the March 12, 2005, meeting at the Atlantic County Historical Society, 907 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ. For those guests traveling a distance, discount accommodations have been arranged at Pier 4, on the bay, in Somers Point; call, toll free, 888-927-9141 and ask for the discounted rooms set aside for the League meeting.

AGENDA

- 9:00 A.M. Registration and breakfast treats
- 9:30 A.M. Welcome and introductions
- 9:45 A.M. League business meeting
- 10:45 A.M. Program: "Atlantic County, Then and Now,"
by Joan Berkey
- 11:45 A.M. Break and transportation via minibus to Crab Trap
- 12:00 noon Luncheon at Crab Trap (note your entrees below)
- 1:30 P.M. Tours:
 - Walking—Somers Mansion, Somers Point Museum,
and Atlantic County Historical Society
 - Bus—Risley Homestead, Casto House, Somers Point
Bayfront, and Linwood Historic District

DIRECTIONS

From the North: Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 30, Somers Point. You will exit onto MacArthur Blvd. Continue to the circle; go 3/4 of the way around and exit at Route 585 (Shore Road). The Historical Society is the 2nd building on the left. Pass the building and turn left at the first street (an alley) which will take you to the parking lot. **From the South:** Take the Garden State Parkway to the first exit after the Great Egg toll plaza. Bear right onto Route 9. At the traffic light, turn right to the circle. Follow directions above.

Questions Sat. morning? 609-927-8314 before 8:00 am
609-927-5218 after 8:00 am

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration is \$20.00 per person. Luncheon selections are: crab cakes, herb grilled chicken, roast sirloin, or broiled flounder. Please select a choice for each registrant. Registration must be received by February 25, 2005. **We are not in ADA compliance, and the meeting will be held on the second floor.** Mail the form below and your check, payable to the Atlantic County Historical Society, to: Gwen Hagerthey, Atlantic County Historical Society, P.O. Box 301, Somers Point, NJ 08244.

NAME _____ TELEPHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

AFFILIATION _____

Names of additional registrants _____

Luncheon choices _____ Amount enclosed _____

Questions or additional info, call Gwen at 609-927-3071 or June at 609-927-5218 (historical society).

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, showed slides of the many types of gravestones in the cemetery (some with the signatures of noted stonemasons) indicating some of the damage and deterioration incurred over the years. He concluded his talk with recommendations for the 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 this informative and entertaining day.

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



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



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

Winter Meeting — Somers Point, Atlantic County—
March 12, 2005
Spring Meeting— Springfield, Union County—
June 4, 2005

Visit the League at:

www.lhsnj.org

Elizabeth Morgan, one of the great resources and cheerleaders of Ocean County history passed away in February. This memorial by Kirk Moore appeared in the Asbury Park Press on February 7. She will be sorely missed.—Kathleen F. Heim

Last week Elizabeth Meirs Morgan passed away at the age of ninety. She was a rare combination of scholarly historian and environmentalist who was always willing to share her vast knowledge. She will be truly missed. — Patricia H. Burke, Executive Director, Toms River Seaport Society & Maritime Museum.

Elizabeth Morgan, local historian and naturalist

By KIRK MOORE, STAFF WRITER

LACEY -- Even into her late 80s, Elizabeth Meirs Morgan was always up for an adventure in the woods -- hunting the cellar holes of some long-lost Pinelands ghost town, perhaps, or tracking down the last chestnut trees surviving in the forest.

Morgan, a well-known local historian and naturalist, died early yesterday morning of a stroke at age 90, family members said. She lived in the Forked River section. People who knew Morgan said she will be remembered as a great teacher who passed on generations of local history and folk knowledge to new generations who arrived just as the Ocean County landscape was dramatically transformed.

"She's always been an inspiration to everyone who has met her," said Kerry Jennings of the Forked River Mountain Coalition, of which Morgan was a founding board member. "She's gone now, but we have a lot of expertise and a lot of knowledge."

"Friends of mine have said that when Elizabeth dies, it will be like losing a whole library," said longtime friend Caroline Campbell of Toms River.

Morgan, sometimes nicknamed "The Pines Baroness," was well-known for her environmental and historical activism, her prodigious knowledge of the history and nature of Ocean and Monmouth counties, and her Episcopal church work.

She was intellectually generous, and often seemed intent on downloading as much information to others as she could, friends often said. When local conservationists organized to preserve the Forked River Mountains -- a region of low, gravelly hills west of Forked River and Waretown -- Morgan supplied them with carefully drawn maps and reams of lore she had heard over the decades from woodsmen, hunters and longtime area families.

"She was a great lover of history," recalled Pauline S. Miller of the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Commission, who met Morgan in the 1960s and collaborated with her on projects. While Miller delved into books and old documents to trace the county's history, Morgan "liked a different kind of history. She liked old places," Miller said. "She had this curiosity about many things, the environment especially."

A painting in the nature center at Wells Mills County Park outside Waretown shows Morgan attired in hiking garb, with a broad-brimmed hat, long coat and walking stick. In the back country, hunters and horseback riders were sometimes surprised to see her behind the wheel of her Jeep, accompanied only by her dogs, miles from the nearest paved road.

"She was really interested in people, and in listening to them and their stories," Campbell said. The firsthand knowledge Morgan learned in those travels often helped local residents and activists save pieces of Pinelands heritage, such as a campaign some years ago to head off demolition of an old-time hunting cabin at Wells Mills Lake. Publicity about the Forked River Mountains has led to major land purchases there by the state and non-profit conservation groups. "Elizabeth always knew the key people to contact if something needed to be done," Campbell said.

After difficult health problems last year, Morgan seemed to be doing well and was planning to host a small meeting of local conservationists at her home next week, Jennings and Campbell said.

"She had to ration herself, but she did more under those circumstances than a lot of people in perfect health do," Campbell said.

Morgan was born, and grew up in, the New Egypt section of Plumsted, the daughter of John and Sarah Henshaw Meirs, a family with roots in the area going back to the 1700s. After graduating from Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, with a master's degree in history, she was a teacher and social worker before marrying the Rev. Luman J. Morgan in 1941. Morgan wrote for church publications, and on history and the environment for Ocean



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