



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

**Fall Meeting
Closter
Bergen County
October 7, 2006**

**Article and
registration form
on page 11-12.**

“CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA” DESIGNATED BY CONGRESS

On July 24, 2006, the U.S. House of Representatives recognized New Jersey's often unappreciated role in the American Revolution as it joined the Senate in passing legislation to designate the “Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area” in New Jersey.

National Heritage Areas, while part of the National Parks Service, are locally administered. They are “living landscapes,” where individuals, organizations and businesses form partnerships with local, state and federal governments to celebrate their heritage and to conserve and restore irreplaceable natural and cultural resources.

The National Heritage Area will be coordinated by the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association. Founded in 2002, the association is the only state-wide non-profit organization whose purpose is to raise popular appreciation of the historical significance

of the American Revolution in New Jersey. The Crossroads association will engage local communities, historic sites and other partners to realize a vision for New Jersey’s “Crossroads of the American Revolution Heritage Area.”

Crossroads Association President Kevin Tremble points out that, "The Heritage Area will help us develop a coherent vision for the more than 250 Revolutionary War sites in New Jersey that are recognized as nationally significant. We will link them together to tell the overall story of New Jersey's role in the Revolutionary War."

National Heritage Area designation bolsters advocates of land conservation, historic preservation, tourism and education by providing federal recognition of New Jersey's important Revolutionary War history.

Cate Litvack, Executive Director of the Crossroads Association says, "By preserving the many intact historic... landscapes and sites in New Jersey, we will enable not only those of us who live here, but also those who visit, to appreciate the significant role New Jersey played in the founding of our nation. "

As Governor Corzine has said, "*The battles that took place in New Jersey during the American Revolution shaped our nation's history. We must protect the places that commemorate those patriots who fought and died to establish a country that values freedom and individual rights.*"

(In Sept. 2006 the Senate should pass the amended bill and send it to the President for his signature.)

State Historical Records Advisory Board Announces Autumn Archival Workshops Series

The State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) is planning a series of archival workshops this autumn for archivists of all levels of expertise. SHRAB hopes to advance some of its goals by hosting these workshops. Those goals include improving preservation of historical records located in a broad range of repositories and promoting the improvement of archival management skills among the state's historical records personnel. The workshops are recommended for anyone who works with New Jersey's documentary heritage in archival, historical, genealogical, or cultural organizations.

The series begins on Tuesday, October 10th, with *Preserving Family Pictures and Papers*, presented by Joanne Nestor, Principal Photographer, New Jersey State Archives, and Janet Reimer, Preservation Archivist. This workshop will run from 9 a.m. to noon at the New Jersey State Archives and will cover a brief history of photographic processes (with examples), the importance of storage, environment and care, and handling and storage methods for prints and negatives. There will be a slide presentation and hands-on demonstration. A printed handout will feature conservation

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

Listed below are your officers and trustees:

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)

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

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

Trustee, Central
vacant

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

Executive Director
Linda J. Barth

Membership Chairman
Dorothy Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society
Trustees Emeriti
Bernard Bush
Hightstown-East Windsor
Historical Society

Ruth Kane Fern
Passaic County Historical Society

DEADLINE: Submissions for the
January issue of *League News* must
be on the editor's desk no later than
December 15, 2006. 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.
Photo- graphs will be scanned and
returned. Digital photographs
should be submitted in .jpeg
or .tiff.**

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

My term as President of the League comes to an end at the October meeting. When the current Board took over, you, the membership, were asking for a newsletter, a web site and more information. Thanks in a large part to Linda Barth, our modestly paid administrator, you have been receiving a LEAUGE NEWS that you tell me is useful.

TW Solutions created an attractive web site at www.lhsnj.org that carries our meetings, the LEAGUE NEWS, and information about League member meetings. The Board revised the constitution and bylaws so they are now workable and useful.

I leave office believing that we still need to provide more useful information at our meetings on special topics.

Understand that these accomplishments have cost money. We have some surplus monies from previous years and are using that to pay for current costs. Dues have gone up and will need to go up again in the near future as our surplus decreases. Linda Barth has arranged for a reduced rate on our printing and we applied for a General Operating Grant from the NJ Historical Commission; unfortunately, we did not receive that grant, but we will apply again.

Please let me or Linda or any of our Board members know your thoughts on the League.

I thank all the members of the Board and Linda Barth for all their help and support and work over the last few years. Without them, nothing would have been accomplished.

Sincerely,
Bob Hunter
bob@haddonheightslibrary.com
856-465-7751

Since many of our member organizations operate small museums, the editor thought that this article from the Wall Street Journal was most appropriate.

In the Fray: Why Rural Museums Are Becoming Ancient History

By Bruce Courson, The Wall Street Journal, Dec 27, 2005

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It was disheartening to learn last month in the Boston Globe of Old Sturbridge Village's recent layoffs and closure of several major facilities. The museum is a living history museum in central Massachusetts that depicts 1830s New England life on a 200-acre site with 40 period buildings. One thousand reservations for Thanksgiving dinner, a tradition since the 1950s, had to be canceled this year. A new tavern and motel, which were expected to generate much needed revenue for the Village when they opened in 2001, will be shuttered in January. Only 20 of the once nearly 70 costumed guides remain. A personally troubling fact, as I was a "tinsmith" there in 1971, a period when increasing attendance was a given.

It is a story increasingly common for rural Massachusetts museums within a day's drive of major metropolitan areas. Many have current paid attendance numbers that are nearing 50% of what they were three decades ago. My own institution, the Sandwich Glass Museum, saw attendance drop from 84,000 in the early 1980s to 42,000 in 2000. Published figures and statistics I have gathered over several decades point to similar trends in nearby maritime and historical museums, not only in Massachusetts but along the Boston-Washington corridor as well. Considering all that we hear about "the museum boom" in major cities occurring during that same period, this might seem a surprising state of affairs.

Numerous causes have been cited for this precipitous decline, including the weather and 9/11. But one factor stands out among the reasons behind this consistent, decades-long trend: the 1978 deregulation of the airline industry and a new era of cheap air travel. Before deregulation, most vacations were taken in the summer and the automobile was the affordable, preferred means of travel. After 1978, however, inexpensive travel and free "frequent flier" tickets gradually became available. As a result, passenger counts more than doubled between 1978 and 1998. The vacationing public increasingly opted to leave their cars at the airport and, at any time of the year, fly to their destinations. Since 1978, the likes of Glacier Bay, Alaska, the Galapagos, or a Caribbean cruise have become affordable and popular attractions. Changing leisure-travel patterns among the American public are not a new phenomenon: A historic parallel occurred when Coney Island's Steeplechase Park succumbed to the post-World War II "automobile vacation" in 1964.

How have most museums dealt with the financial downturn brought on by this decline in attendance? They've raised their prices. I know of one major, Sturbridge-like outdoor history museum in Massachusetts that, in 1971, charged the equivalent of \$5.72 in 2004 dollars but, now, after its latest price increase, charges \$21. Its many efforts to expand public programming have not kept pace with the 267% increase in admissions fees. This example is unfortunately not the exception but the rule. A museum will often raise its price slightly to help a sagging bottom line only to find that next year's decrease in attendance requires yet another increase in admissions fees -- a vicious cycle.

How many companies, realizing a serious decline in demand, merely raise their prices without substantially improving their product? Not many still in business. Unfortunately, a great number of museums are now perceived as too expensive, with potential visitors often choosing to go elsewhere.

Other institutions have tried a different tack, "improving their product" by means of major expansions. While some have been successful, all too often the results have been devastating. In many cases small operating deficits became large ones because of additional staffing, greater facilities costs and debt from insufficient capital campaigns. Increases in attendance revenues, if any, failed to meet unrealistic projections. Layoffs became necessary and some institutions ceased to exist altogether.

In 1992, the New Bedford Whaling Museum was forced to close its two-year-old Whale Discovery Center in nearby Plymouth, Mass., after attendance fell short of what was needed to break even. "We had hoped to have 75,000 visitors each year. We had 36,000 over two years," stated then-director Anthony Zane.

There are no silver bullets in the museum business, of course, and every institution faces a somewhat different set of circumstances. The Sandwich Glass Museum on Cape Cod, aware of several failed expansions in the region, chose a different approach to the problem of seriously declining attendance. In 1998 we launched our first-ever capital campaign, raising \$2.3 million -- four times the institution's operating budget. We built a glass blowing arena, a high-tech multimedia theater and new retail space. The difference was that our business plan included holding general admission fees to 1970s levels, \$4.50 in 2004 dollars, and reducing group admissions fees to \$1. Staffing numbers and operating expenses were budgeted at pre-expansion levels and only a stabilized attendance was anticipated, not an increase. In short, more bang for the buck, not more bucks for the same old bang.

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SLATE FOR 2006-2007 ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate for election at the October 7th League meeting in Closter:



President—open

Secretary - Kevin M. Hale

Historian—John Chance

Northern Region Trustee- Dorothy Johnson

Central Region Trustee - Mary Swarbrick

Southern Region Trustee - Sonia Foury

First Vice President - Bob Hunter

Treasurer—Dorothy M. Andrew

Northern Vice President - Catherine Sullivan

Central VP - JB Vogt

Southern Region VP June Sheridan

At Large Trustee- Bob Longcore

Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

LETTERS, WE GET LETTERS...

MEMBERS ASKED TO HELP WITH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REQUEST

Hello League of Historical Societies:

The Haddon Heights Historical Society is in the process of reviewing and updating our Constitution and Bylaws, as well as confirming what requirements we should be following with the State regarding our 501(c)(3) status.

If you have any suggestions concerning these Constitution and By-Laws questions, please contact me. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Marshall Hatfield, Haddon Heights Historical Society, 1509 Prospect Ridge Blvd., Haddon Heights, NJ 08035; 856-546-0391 home; 609-502-2653 mobile; mhatfield01@comcast.net.

Editor's note: We always appreciate members helping members. That's what the League is all about.

Dear Friends of New Jersey History,

I just wanted to send a short note to tell you that I have left the New Jersey Historical Society for a new job at the Newark Public Library as of July 10. I am now working with William Dane in the Special Collections Department, so I am not moving far a field archivally, though I won't be dealing with as much NJ History as at my previous post.

I am saddened to leave the Historical Society since I have enjoyed the people who work there, the collections and the subject matter, I but look forward to working with you in new capacities in the future.

Best wishes,
Chad Leinaweaver

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 2006, in the following categories:

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, NEWSLETTERS, JOURNALS, CALENDARS, and
MEDIA (AUDIO CASSETTES/CDs, VIDEO CASSETTES/DVDS)

For works published in 2006, awards will be presented at the League meeting in **March 2007**. Deadline for submission of entries: **JANUARY 31, 2007**. 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. Please DO NOT send entries to this address.

Four Centuries in a Weekend, a Journey Through Union County History

Four Centuries in a Weekend is a free, heritage festival, featuring twenty-two historic house museums and sites. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, the event will be held on **Saturday, October 21** (10 am—5 pm) and **Sunday, October 22** (12—5). You may receive a booklet and map by contacting the Cultural and Heritage Commission at culturalinfo@ucnj.org or calling 908-558-2550.

The weekend includes a tour of the Deserted Village of Feltville!

WEEKEND JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST

After consulting with their colleagues in Union County, the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission has created its own free event, *Weekend Journey Through the Past*.

On Saturday, October 14 (10am-5pm) and Sunday, October 15 (noon-5), bring your children, grandchildren, friends and neighbors to journey back in time by visiting the many historic sites and treasures that will be open to the public for this very special weekend. Tours of historic sites, interesting exhibitions, and special family activities will be featured during the county's first collaborative heritage tourism event. Printed guides identifying participating sites and locations (and containing interesting tidbits about each) will be available in early September to help guide you on your journey.

To plan your trip, call the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission at 908-231-7110 and request a guide or to find out where you may pick one up at one of our many participating partners. The guide also will be posted on the web at (www.schistoryweekend.com).

For a sneak preview of what's in store for the October 14 & 15 event, visit the exhibition, **Weekend Journey Through the Past**, open to the public from September 18 to October 27, at the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Gallery, Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerville. The gallery will be open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and Tuesdays until 7:30.

Archival Workshops Series (continued from page one)

guidelines, vendors, lists of materials and websites relating to the preservation of photographic materials and photography.

On Wednesday, October 11th, Gary Saretzky, Archivist for Monmouth County Archives, will present *County Archives: Reference Services* at the Monmouth County Archives in Manalapan from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. County records may include, but are not limited to, census records, deeds, naturalizations, marriages, civil and criminal court records, surveyors' records, maps, and various licensing records such as professionals and business name registrations. This workshop will discuss the types of reference services provided to researchers and the ways in which archives are organized and indexed to promote effective and secure use. An optional tour of the Monmouth County Archives will be offered after the workshop.

The next workshop, *Managing Archival Collections*, will be presented by Joseph Klett, Chief, New Jersey State Archives, and Ellen Callahan, Collection Manager, New Jersey State Archives, on Thursday, October 12th from 9 a.m. to noon at the Gloucester County Historical Society in Woodbury. This workshop will present an overview on collection management practices and will provide guidelines in areas ranging from the development of a collection policy to arrangement/description alternatives and implementing basic preservation measures during archival processing. Seating for this workshop is limited to 25 participants.

Grants, CAPES, and Fundraising, will be held at the State Archives in Trenton on Monday, November 6th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Ben Primer, Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections at the Harvey S. Firestone Library of Princeton University; Karl Niederer, Director of the State Department of Archives and Records Management; Mary Murrin, Director of the Grants Program at the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC); and Sara Cureton, Grants Assistant at NJHC, will present ideas on how to apply for grants from NJHC and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), how a Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service (CAPES) survey can benefit your organization, and ways in which your organization can be productive at fundraising.

The final autumn workshop, *Discover a Whole New World: Researching in Religious Archives*, will take place on Friday, November 10th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Burlington County Historical Society in Burlington. The speakers will be L. Dale Patterson, Archivist-Records Administrator, General Commission on Archives and History, United Methodist Church; Dr. Jennifer Woodruff Tait, Methodist Librarian, Drew University Library; Margery N. Sly, Deputy Director and Assistant Stated Clerk, Presbyterian Historical Society, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and Russell Gasero, Reformed Church of America Archivist. This highly qualified panel of speakers will discuss genealogy, social issues in religious archives, unexpected material, and ecumenical material (material not just related to a specific denomination or religion).

The workshops are sponsored by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference NJ Caucus, the Genealogical Society of New Jersey and the State Historical Records Advisory Board. Funding has been provided, in part, by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. There is a \$20 registration fee for each workshop. For details and registration information, please visit www.njarchives.org/links/shrabworkshops.html; barbara.pepe@sos.state.nj.us; 609-777-3598.

SAD NEWS FOR THE HISTORY COMMUNITY

Betty Scott, author of "The Last Bridgetender," died in April in a fire at her home in Franklin Township, Somerset County. Mrs. Scott, 75, was an active volunteer at the Meadows Foundation, for whom she operated the gift shop. Her story of Sandor Fekete was serialized in 2003 and 2004 in *On the Level*, the newsletter of the Canal Society of New Jersey.

Mt. Olive Historical Society—We extend our sympathies to our friends at the Mount Olive Historical Society on the loss of their headquarters. An April 13th fire, ruled an arson, destroyed the Muehlbauer Farm House, a 19th-century building that the society had planed to restore.

Lucy the Elephant—In May, Lucy was struck by lightning, adding another chapter to the incredible story of the 90-ton wooden elephant that stands along the shore in Margate. The lightning bolt damaged beams on the observation deck, and sent pieces of wood flying. The elephant's howdah will probably have to be removed to complete the repairs.

IDEAS-4-U

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

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities (NJCH), a non-profit 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.

HISTORY EVENTS AND EXHIBITS

“Ebb & Flow: New Jersey & Its Rivers” - This life-giving liquid, power source for production, route to a new home or resource for food, always causes a major human impact on the landscape. Four rivers symbolize the role waterways have played in shaping this state & the nation: The Maurice & sections of the Delaware, have been designated nationally as Wild & Scenic rivers; the Raritan & the Passaic, which flow through suburban & urban areas, have been impacted by dense development. 19th century artifacts unearthed by NJ DOT projects in New Brunswick & Trenton are on public display for the 1st first time, along with a walkable floor map, video & audio + other hands-on activities focusing on 4 subjects: Industry, including shipbuilding & Newark-based leather, hat, thread & beer production; Settlement, examining the lasting Dutch, English & Swedish influences on furniture & architecture; Food, highlighting oyster harvesting at the mouth of a South Jersey river & fishing skills used by the Lenape; Transportation, telling how towpath canals aided the movement of goods across the state. This new installation, on view *free*, Tues-Sat, begins a **3-year run** at the NJ Historical Society, 52 Park Place, Newark; 973-596-8500; www.jerseyhistory.org; museum@jerseyhistory.org.

John Augustus Roebling: His Life and Legacy—Exhibit showcases the inventor's contributions to industry. His twisted wire rope and the founding of the Roebling Wire Company made possible such modern marvels as the suspension bridge and the elevator. Roebling's steel industry furthered the prosperity of Trenton and by the time of his death in 1869 the entire city of Trenton felt the integral nature of Roebling's participation in Trenton industry, history, economy and social development. **Trenton City Museum** at Ellarslie Mansion in Cadwalader Park; **thru Sep-10-06**; Tue-Sat 11-3; free; 609-989-3632; www.ellarslie.org.

Body Wars: Fighting Infection, Staying Healthy—Take a journey of discovery into the world of microbes and the infectious diseases they cause. Along the way, one learns how the body's immune system fights off the microscopic invaders and, most importantly, how to protect it against disease. **The Newark Museum**, 49 Washington Street, Newark; **thru May-30-07**; Wed-Fri 12-5, Sat-Sun 10-5; sugg. donations: \$7; \$3; 973-596-6550; www.newarkmuseum.org.

In The Good Ole Summer Time: The Evolution of the Swimsuit Exhibit—This exhibit looks at the changes in swimwear over the decades. See how styles have changed with the times from the wool dresses to the itzy-bitsy bikini. **Tuckerton Seaport**, 120 West Main Street (Rt. 9), PO BOX 52, Tuckerton; **thru Sep-30-06**; Mon– Sun 10-4:30; Free (with admission to seaport); 609-296-8868; www.tuckertonseaport.org.

13th Annual Apple Festival—Family friendly activity with apple pie contests for adults and juniors, old-fashioned games, pumpkin patch, children's crafts, Indian artifacts; demonstrations of spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, treadle machine. Civil War re-enactor; outdoor food cooking; apple goodies for sale. Schoolhouse Museum open all day; historical print for sale.

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Granny's attic; Apple Festival shirt; rides on fire truck and vintage cars; barbershop quartet. **Lacey Historical Society**, Forked River. **Saturday, September 30**, 9-3; (Rain date, October 1); 609-693-6343; EBatSEA@aol.com. Directions: Garden State Parkway to Exit 74N or S. Right onto Lacey Road eastbound. Pass the 2nd light; look for parking on the left at the Forked River School.. Shuttles available to take guests to the grounds of the Schoolhouse Museum and Forked River Firehouse.

Sixth Annual AppleFest—Free admission; free parking. **Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township**, John Wesley Gandy Farmstead, 26 Tyler Road (Rte. 616), Greenfield. **Sunday, October 1st**, 10:30-4; (Rain date, October 8th); 609-390-5656; <http://hpsout.tripod.com>.

Victorian Tea at Risley Homestead—The 2nd year for this popular event! Win a prize for the most creative Victorian hat (optional) and bring your favorite teacup to this outdoor gathering on the quaint grounds of Risley Homestead. Tea and refreshments will be served under a festive tent. Limited to 50 people, so please call for reservations. Sponsored by the **Atlantic Heritage Center**. NOTE: In the event of inclement weather, the Tea will be held indoors at the Atlantic Heritage Center, 907 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ. **Risley Homestead**, 8 Virginia Avenue, near the 400 block of Shore Road, Northfield; **Saturday, September 9, 2006**; 12:00 noon; \$25; 609-646-5829; www.AtlanticHeritageCenterNJ.org

75th Anniversary Salute to the George Washington Bridge—Exhibit display of the history of the George Washington Bridge, which will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its opening in October 2006. The exhibit will feature archival photos of the construction of the GWB along with rare film of that construction. **Fort Lee Museum**, 1588 Palisade Avenue, Fort Lee; **Sep-23-06 thru Jan-07-07**; Sat-Sun 12-4; free; 201-592-3663; www.fortleenj.org.

Country Antiques Auction—The **Historical Society of West Caldwell** hosts this fundraiser, featuring furniture, decorative items, and collectibles; preview from 10-1; auction at 1:00 pm; purchase a paddle for bidding. Browse the white elephant sale and bake sale. Beekeeper demonstrations and sale of honey. **Saturday, October 7th**, 10-3, at the Zenas Crane Homestead, 289 Westville Avenue, West Caldwell; 973-226-8976.

Flight Deck Cafe Open on Weekend Afternoons on the Battleship New Jersey—Enjoy a burger, hot dog or fries from Boardwalk Fries, and an ice cold beer, glass of wine or soft drink while enjoying an amazing view of Philadelphia and the Delaware River from the deck of the famous Battleship New Jersey! **Battleship New Jersey Museum & Memorial**, Camden Waterfront, 62 Battleship Place, Camden; thru **Sep-30-06**; Sat-Sun 12-6; free with tour ticket; 856-966-1652; www.battleshipnewjersey.org.

A Legacy of Time: One Hundred Years of West Jersey Tall Case Clocks—The society's latest temporary installation features almost a dozen tall case clocks dating from the mid-1700s to the mid-1800s. Among the displayed items are several produced by George Hollinshead and his apprentices in Woodstown. **Salem County Historical Society**, 83 Market Street, Salem; thru **Jun-11-07**; Tue-Sat 12-4; \$3 (non-member); FREE (member); 856-935-5004; www.salemcountyhistoricalsociety.com.

A Day in the Life of a Firefighter—New Jersey photographer John Jordan displays a photographic essay on the company pride and dedication of a community's firefighters. **American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark**, 83 Norwood St., Haledon; **Sep-01-06 thru Dec-31-06**; Wed-Sat 1-4; \$5; 973-595-7953; www.labormuseum.org.

Tours of Burlington City—Our 328-year-old City offers guided tours. See up to 19 of our over 40 historic sites, including NJ's oldest: fire company, pharmacy, library, the County's oldest house (1685) and more. Enjoy our riverfront, museums, antiques, Underground Railroad, folklore, shopping, restaurants and fun events year-round. **Apr. 7 - Dec. 3**, Fri, Sat, Sun 11 am - 4 pm. Tours depart 11:30 am and 2 pm; \$5/Adult, \$4/Srs & Children under 12. Call for Group Rates. Specials include Dine & Tour Packages, History Inside & Out, AJ Meerwald Sailing Packages and more. For information and directions, visit the website or call. 12 Smith's Alley, 609-386-3993; www.tourburlington.org.

SMALL MUSEUMS (continued from page three)

The museum is now in its third post-expansion year. The number of paying visitors increased by 26% over that period and is now holding steady at that level, while attendance at similar area institutions has fallen by 19% during the same three-year period. A sizable operating surplus will be posted for the second year in a row. While these numbers are encouraging, the museum still has regained only one-third of the attendance lost over the past three decades.

As residents of the Boston-Washington corridor continue to favor airline over automobile vacations, the possibility of a broad uptick in attendance at rural locations is highly unlikely. Until museums face up to the real market forces at play, and cease blaming the weather or 9/11 for annual declines, we shall be reading more stories of those in serious trouble or ceasing to exist. Decades of hard work have gone into building these institutions and presenting their accumulated knowledge to millions of people. It would be a tragedy to lose even one of them.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

The League has five member organizations whose names contain the word “West.” Let’s get to know them and what makes each distinct.

In Southern New Jersey, the **Westampton Historical Society**, in Rancocas Village, focuses on the preservation of historic sites and the history of the town. Soon to be headquartered in the old firehouse, the society hosts an annual ham dinner and a Christmas house tour on the 2nd Saturday of December in odd-numbered years. The village, which features a Quaker meeting house, was ranked #7 in New Jersey Life magazine’s poll of 100 places and things in the state. It is an enclave of colonial homes amidst the malls and sprawls of surrounding towns. You can contact the society at P.O. Box 132, Rancocas, NJ 08073; 609-267-5868 or 609-702-1291, or visit the village at www.rancocasnj.org.

Moving north into Monmouth County, we visit the **West Long Branch Historical Society**, whose goal is to preserve historic homes and landmarks. In fact, they honor residents who have lived in West Long Branch for 60 or more years by placing plaques on the homes. The society has published “Norwood Park,” a booklet describing the recreational colony that flourished at the turn of the last century. As part of the town-wide centennial in 2008, the society will update and reprint the borough’s history. To learn more about this group that meets four times a year, you can contact them at P.O. Box 151, West Long Branch, NJ 07764; 732-222-7375.

Heading into Union County, we meet the **Westfield Historical Society**. Since its founding in 1969, the society has pledged itself to preserving, interpreting and encouraging community interest in the history of Westfield. The circa 1740 Miller-Cory House, acquired by the society in 1971, is operated as a "living museum," recreating the atmosphere of an 18th century farm; on Sundays, costumed docents describe 18th century life as they guide guests through the house, and trained artisans recreate the crafts and tasks of the era. The Society can be contacted and/or visited at the following locations: **Westfield Historical Society Museum and Archives**, Town Hall, 2nd Floor, 425 East Broad Street, Westfield, NJ 07090-2196; 908-789-4047; [his-tory@westfieldnj.com](mailto:history@westfieldnj.com) and the **Miller-Cory House Museum**, 614 Mountain Avenue, Westfield; 908-232-1776. The society’s mailing address is Box 613, Westfield, NJ 07091-0613.

(continued on page ten)

The **Historical Society of West Caldwell**, in Essex County, works to promote awareness and preservation of local history, homes and landmarks. A second goal is the preservation and restoration of the Zenas Crane Homestead, home of 1st and 3rd mayors. The society's major fundraiser is the Country Antiques Auction, held on the 1st Saturday of October; it features a white elephant sale and bake sale. In June the society hosts an open house and civil war encampment. You may contact the society at P.O. Box 1701, West Caldwell 07006, or visit the Crane Homestead at 289 Westville Avenue. For more information, please call Roxanne Douglas at 973-226-8976.

Finally, the **League of Historical Societies of West Essex**, also in Essex County, has twelve member organizations that meet to foster awareness of preservation and history, exchange news, and support each other. The League meets every few months at one of the host societies and has an annual meeting with a speaker. To contact the **League of Historical Societies of West Essex**, write to P.O. Box 973, West Caldwell 07006.

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

October 7, 2006	Closter Historical Society, Bergen County
March 10, 2007	Longport Historical Society, Atlantic County
June 9, 2007	Highlands Historical Society, Monmouth County
October 2007	Northern Region—TO BE ANNOUNCED
March 2008	Long Beach Island Historical Society, Ocean County

We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth, 908-722-7428, barths@att.net, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area.

We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.

ROGER McDONOUGH LIBRARIANSHIP AWARD - 2006

In 2002 the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance, along with the New Jersey Historical Commission, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference New Jersey Caucus, and the New Jersey Library Association History and Preservation Section, instituted an award to a librarian, archivist, or manuscript curator for excellence in service in advancing New Jersey Studies. Awards have been given to: Robert Lupp (2002); Elsalyn Palmisano (2003); Charles Cummings (2004); and Joseph Felcone (2005).

The award is named for Roger H. McDonough, New Jersey State Librarian from 1947 to 1975.

Nominees for the award should meet the following criteria:

1. Have served for 10 years or more as a librarian, archivist, or manuscripts curator in a New Jersey institution. The nominee could be active or retired from service.
2. Demonstrated a high level of public service to the New Jersey studies research community and/or general public.

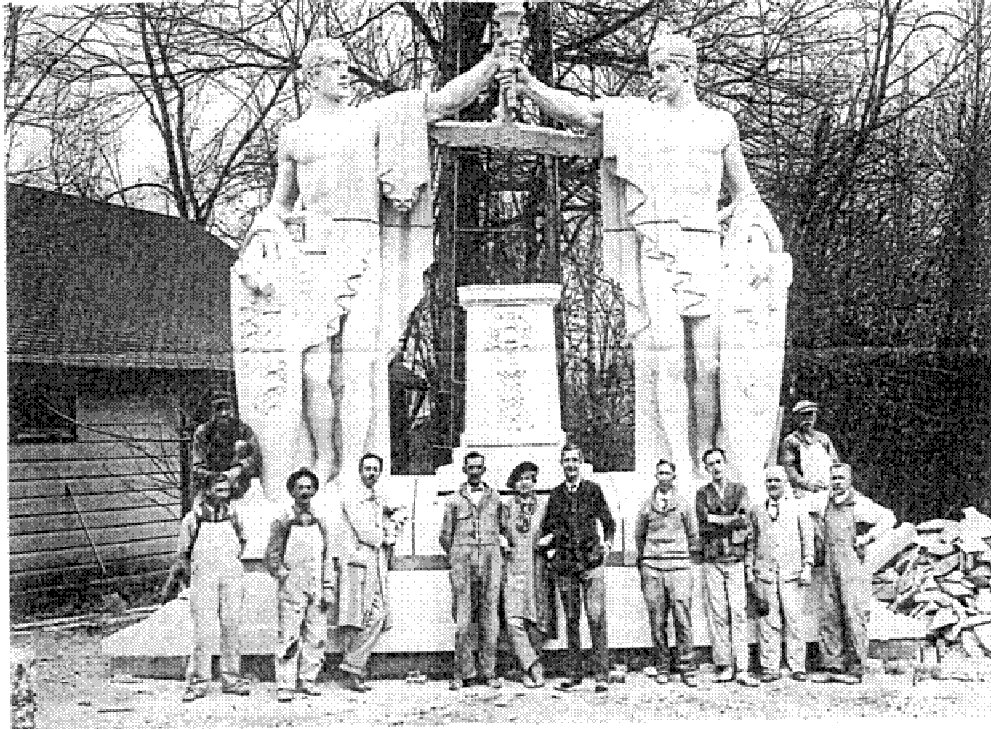
To nominate a candidate, please state why he/she is deserving of this award, include a cover letter citing significant accomplishments (particular or general) in public service to the New Jersey community, and a career history.

Nominations should be sent to Ronald L. Becker at Special Collections, Rutgers University Libraries, 169 College Ave, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1163 (or e-mail at rbecker@rci.rutgers.edu) by September 1, 2006. Questions? Please contact Mr. Becker at 732-932-7006.

THE CLOSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Invites you to attend the Autumn meeting of

THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY



This group by sculptor Madeline Hoffman was carved in Closter before being erected at Bush House, London

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7, 2006

to be held at

THE MEETING ROOM OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

280 High Street, Closter, New Jersey 07624

AGENDA

9:00 AM	Registration & Coffee
9:30 AM	Welcome
9:45 AM	League Business meeting
10:45 AM	Break
11:00 AM	“Civic Pride: Closter’s Sculptors and the Nation,” a slide show
12:00 noon	A boxed luncheon in the lobby
1:00 PM	A Tour of the Belskie Museum, or a Walking Tour

For information:

Before Oct. 7th: Library: 201-768-4197

Morning of October 7th: 201-315-1475

Registration Form—Please return this section by September 10th. Price includes boxed lunch.

Please select from the following: Ham Turkey Roast Beef Grilled Veggie

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City _____ State, Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation: _____

Please send check for \$20, payable to The Closter Historical Society, 248 Harrington Avenue, Closter, NJ 07624. Driving directions are located on page twelve.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE CLOSTER PUBLIC LIBRARY,
280 HIGH STREET, CLOSTER; 201-768-4197**

From Rte 17 or Garden State Parkway West

Take the Garden State Parkway to Exit 165 or Rte 17 to Oradell Ave. Follow signs to Oradell Ave. Go east on Oradell Ave to Kinderkamack Ave. Turn left (north) onto Kinderkamack Ave. to Old Hook Road. Turn right (east) onto Old Hook Road. Old Hook becomes High Street in Closter. In about 1 ½ blocks, you will see the library on the right (A-frame building). The parking lot is just past the library.



CLOSTER IS FULL OF HISTORY:

Did you know...

- ◆ that the Closter horseman alerted Washington to evacuate Fort Lee?
- ◆ that you can follow his route today?
- ◆ that Closter has the largest number of surviving Dutch sandstone houses in Bergen County?
- ◆ that you can cross the border into NY to see where Major Andre was tried and hanged?
- ◆ that Closter has the most complete Lustron house in NJ and that it is on the state and national registers?

Closter has fabulous history and we want to share it with you. We will have a hand-out of special places to visit when you come to Closter on Oct. 7th.



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

**Fall Meeting—Closter, Bergen County
October 7, 2006
Winter Meeting—Longport, Atlantic County
March 10, 2007
Highlands Historical Society, Monmouth County
June 9, 2007**

Visit the League at:

www.lhsnj.org