



LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 41 No. 2 www.lhsnj.org Spring 2016

Spring Meeting
Tewksbury Historical Society,
Hunterdon County
June 11, 2016

Article, registration form, and
directions, p. 19, 20

BUTLER MUSEUM TO REOPEN AFTER FIVE YEARS OF RENOVATION

By Cindy Sokoloff

On Sunday, April 17, 2016, the Butler Museum will celebrate its rededication after more than five years of reconstruction and renovation. The public is cordially invited to share the event from noon to 5:00 p.m., with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for 1:00 p.m. The afternoon will feature tours of the museum, a display of classic and military vehicles, presentations for

children about safety around the railroad, a visit by representatives of the Ramapough Lunaape nation, and other special events.

The Butler Museum is housed in the former New York Susquehanna and Western Railroad station, constructed in 1888. The land was deeded to the railroad by Benjamin F. Howell and Charles E. Noble for one dollar, with the condition that a train station be constructed on the site within one year. The original structure was remodeled in the 1890s to provide for separate men's and women's waiting rooms on either side of the stationmaster's office. In 1907 a freight house was added on the northwestern end of the building. The station was active until passenger service was suspended in 1966. The rail line is still used regularly for transporting freight.

The structure as it stands today still retains the original vertical battened board exterior walls and a modified hip roof, with deep projecting eaves supported by chamfered brackets. On the north end is a deep-roofed porch with similar brackets. It

(continued on page three)



SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

April 9, 2016	Naval Air Station Wildwood/Wildwood Historical Society, Cape May County
June 11, 2016	Tewksbury Historical Society, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County
November 5, 2016	New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, Essex County
Winter 2017	TBA
June 10, 2017	Liberty Hall, Union, Union County

We encourage your society to host a future League meeting. If you would like this opportunity to showcase your site, just contact Linda Barth, 908-240-0488, barthlinda123@aol.com, and she will put you in touch with the regional vice-president for your area. **We look forward to visiting YOUR town some day soon.**

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

President (2016)

Jane McNeill
Victorian Society

First Vice President (2016)

Timothy Hart
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Vice-President, Northern (2016)

Kate Malcolm
Madison Historical Society

Vice-President, Central (2016)

Jeffrey McVey
Lambertville Historical Society

Vice-President, Southern (2016)

Peter Hill
Haddon Heights Historical Society

Secretary (2016)

Christine Retz
Meadows Foundation

Treasurer (2016)

Pary Tell
Cape May County Cultural and Heritage Commission

Trustee, Northern (2018)

Alice Gibson
Victorian Society

Trustee, Northern (2016)

Catherine Sullivan
Victorian Society

Trustee, Central (2016)

Mary Swarbrick
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustee, Central (2018)

Donald Peck
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2018)

Ronald Janesko
Ocean County Historical Society

Trustee, Southern (2016)
open

Trustee-at-Large (2016)
Brian Armstrong
South River Historical and Preservation Society

Trustee-at-Large (2018)

Laura Poll
Archivist, Trenton Free Public Library

Historian (2016)

James Lewis
Morristown and Morris Township Library

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

Executive Director

Linda J. Barth, 214 North Bridge Street,
Somerville, NJ 08876;
908-240-0488; barthlinda123@aol.com

Membership Chairman

Dorothy Pietrowski
Madison Historical Society

Publications Awards Committee Chairman

J. B. Vogt
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustee Emeritus

Bernard Bush

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THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends of New Jersey History:
Two major events are coming your way this spring.

The first is Building a Place for History, the 2016 NJ History and Historic Preservation Conference on June 8-9, 2016 at Seton Hall University in South Orange. You can view the entire program on pages 4-8.

A newly formed group, the Friends of New Jersey Heritage, will host the pre-conference reception on Wednesday evening at the Thomas Edison National Historical Park in West Orange.

Saturday, May 14th marks the 12th annual **Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair** at the Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan.

The 2016 Fair will feature familiar faces from the past like Clara Barton, George Washington, and Walt Whitman, as well as such favorite activities as 19th-century baseball, horse-drawn plowing demonstrations, Phydeaux's flying flea circus, and period music.

New to the fair will be several Civil War-themed programs to coincide with the exhibit of President Lincoln's casket. This replica casket, manufactured by the Batesville Casket Company of Indiana, will be on display in the park's Visitor Center. The 14th NJ Volunteers, Co. H, will provide an honor guard for the casket and the Fort Delaware Cornet Band will perform music of the era on period instruments. Darrel Ford, portraying Walt Whitman, will read his poem, "Oh Captain, My Captain," a tribute to President Lincoln. Kenneth Serfass, portraying General Ulysses Grant, will reflect on his relationship and career with the late Commander-in-Chief.

Another exciting new program will be a fictional U.S. Army radio and live show, "SPAM Time," modeled on actual entertainment presented to U.S. military personnel from WWII to the Viet Nam War era. A full day of pre-recorded and live musical entertainment will be presented.

There is something for everyone, so come on out and enjoy the fair! It's a fun-filled experience for the whole family! You don't want to miss it.

DEADLINE: Submissions for the spring issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than July 15, 2016. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; barthlinda123@aol.com.

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

BUTLER MUSEUM (continued from page one)

adjoins a wooden platform along the rear of the building, adjacent to the railroad track.

The interior of the museum also retains much of its original character, including the beaded board walls and ceiling. The full-story bay windows overlooking the tracks in the stationmaster's office as well as the original six-over-six double-hung windows remain, as do most of the interior doors and woodwork. The 1907 freight house addition was remodeled and modernized in the 1990s to serve as a resource room and office. It includes a full kitchen and handicapped-accessible restroom.

The museum has occupied this rare intact example of late Victorian vernacular railroad architecture since it was acquired by the borough in 1975. It was dedicated on May 8, 1976 and opened to the public the following year. The building is listed on both the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.

The Butler Museum houses a large collection of artifacts of local and regional significance, featuring the history of the American Hard Rubber Company, the borough's historic connection to the erection of the Statue of Liberty, and its role as a key transportation hub, contributing to the economic development of the region. The resource room contains a complete collection of more than 100 years of Butler High School yearbooks, an extensive library of books and periodicals related to local history, albums of historic postcards, and genealogical information on many local families.

Beginning in 2008, the Butler Museum and Historical Committee, in cooperation with the borough of Butler, was awarded grants from the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust to address critical structural deficiencies, including the construction of a new foundation under the sinking south end of the building, the restoration of the rear platform from cement to wood, and installation of an ADA-accessible entrance. In January 2011, the museum was closed to the public to allow construction to begin. Additional grants in 2011 and 2012 provided for siding repair, exterior painting, a new roof, and leaders and gutters. With all major projects completed in 2015, the museum committee and volunteers, with the continued support of the borough, began the task of restoring the interior of the building, including cleaning, painting, carpeting, and the redesign and installation of the exhibits.

Thanks to the generous financial support of the Morris County Historic Preservation Trust and the Borough of Butler, and the thousands of hours of service by the Butler Museum and Historical Committee and volunteers, the museum will be rededicated on April 17, 2016, nearly forty years after its establishment, beginning its newest chapter as a cultural and educational resource for the people of Butler and all those committed to preserving and sharing local history.

Photo: Some of the products of the American Hard Rubber Company, now on display in the museum; Ace combs and Ace bowling balls were among the items made in Butler.





Building a Place for History
2016 NJ History and Historic Preservation Conference
June 8–9, 2016 at Seton Hall University in South Orange

New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference

Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Collections Care Workshop at Thomas Edison National Historical Park

This curatorial workshop contains a wide range of interesting and useful topics related to historic house-keeping, storage, preservation of collections, and preservation of digital photographs and other digital media. Workshop sessions will be presented by the museum staff of Thomas Edison National Historical Park, which has the second largest museum collection in the National Park Service.

The Laboratory Complex contains fourteen historic structures, six of which were built in 1887 as the first research and development center dedicated to the “business of inventing.” Many rooms contain their original furnishings. The Edison home, Glenmont, a twenty-nine room Queen Anne style mansion built in 1880, contains the original furnishings and decorative arts objects from the Edison era. The fifteen acre estate also includes gardens, the family greenhouse and barn, and the Edison poured concrete garage containing the family’s automobiles. The museum collection encompasses over 400,000 artifacts including everything from prototype and commercial Edison products, to laboratory furnishings and equipment, to personal items used by the Edison family. The Edison Archives includes an estimated six million documents, 48,000 sound recordings, 10,000 rare books, 3,000 laboratory notebooks, and 60,000 historic photographs.

Three sessions will be presented during the workshop:

Historic Housekeeping - presented by Beth Miller, Curator of Glenmont

Dust and dirt are a constant threat to museum collections and exhibits. With a little bit of common sense and a commitment to a regular housekeeping schedule, these can be kept to a minimum. Learn about establishing a housekeeping routine, setting up a cleaning schedule, the supplies and equipment needed, and cleaning procedures for various types of museum objects.

How to Preserve Digital Photographs & Collections – Jerry Fabris, Curator of Sound Recordings

Most people and organizations need to save digital information—photographs, audio, video, email, documents. Yet, preserving digital files can be problematic, especially on a small budget. Drawing from guidelines developed by the National Digital Information Infrastructure & Preservation Program, this session will provide basic tips to help make digital collections last long-term.

Storage and Preservation of Collections – Joan Harris-Rico, Collections Manager

Participants will learn about standard museum practices for handling collections, storage supplies and equipment, conservation of artifacts, and environmental monitoring. Lastly, participants will take a walking tour of the main laboratory building, which will highlight collections care issues.

This Collections Care workshop is designed for staff and volunteers who are involved in collections care activities or have responsibility for cultural collections, such as librarians, archivists, curators, collections managers, stewards of historic house museums, and registrars.

1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Preserving the Llewellyn Park Landscape: Glenmont, The Ramble, and the Role of a Landscape Management Plan (Separate registration fee required)

Location: Tour departs from parking lot across from Thomas Edison National Historical Park, 211 Main Street, West Orange

Fee \$35 per person; limited to 30 participants

Llewellyn Park, the first planned residential suburban development in the country, was laid out in 1857 by architect Alexander Jackson Davis and is characterized by large lots with country houses and naturalized landscaping. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Tour participants will learn about the original design, landscape management plan, and recent and current restoration projects, as well as tour original features, particularly “The Ramble,” the signature community open space arrayed on a wooded hillside. Also featured is Glenmont, Thomas Edison’s home, where tour leaders will present the challenge of maintaining and restoring the mansion’s gardens, landscape features, and outbuildings, work that is guided by a 2010 Cultural Landscape Report.

Note: Access to the park is only by the tour bus. Once there, the afternoon will include lectures and a challenging walking tour. Participants should dress for the weather and wear appropriate hiking footwear.

Day Two, June 9

9:00—10:15 a.m. Opening Plenary: “Demystifying Advocacy”

Historic preservationists in New Jersey are passionate about their work and have been successful in protecting New Jersey’s treasured places and working to preserve open space, but achieving lasting results requires working at the policy level. Advocacy is a means to an end that achieves lasting impact and is necessary for the voices of preservationists to be heard. Yet, there is a tendency to marginalize and undervalue advocacy in the nonprofit sector, and in particular this is prevalent among history nonprofits who view advocacy as the purview of others for a multitude of reasons, including misunderstanding, fear and impatience.

In this engaging keynote, Laurel will share her passion for a subject she practiced for over a decade, reframing advocacy from a strategy that is feared and marginalized to one embraced for doing the most good. Key barriers to higher levels of sustained nonprofit participation in advocacy will be identified and explored. Storytelling and case studies will serve as key devices for demonstrating the catalyzing affect that advocacy has in strengthening organizations and serving as a leadership strategy.

Audience members will leave feeling motivated, with a solid grounding of how advocacy can help advance their mission’s critical work as well as fit into the larger network of those volunteers and professionals who work to save New Jersey’s history.

Presenter: Laurel O’Sullivan, JD

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.:

Stories Worth Telling: Documenting Our Preservation Efforts

2:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Lunch – Marketplace Exhibits – Poster Presentations

1:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Choice of Afternoon Field Workshops

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W-1 Maplewood, NJ: Portrait of a Quintessential American Railroad Suburb (bus and walking tour)

Time: 1:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

This field workshop will explore the development of Maplewood as a 1920s and 30s railroad suburb that features intact, walkable neighborhoods, varied historical revival architecture, and extant 18th- and 19th-century homes that fit seamlessly into the picturesque streetscapes. Tour participants will visit the National Register-listed Maplewood Municipal Building (1930-32) and see the series of murals that capture the history of the town, walk through Memorial Park, a 25-acre park designed in the 1920s by the firms of Brinley & Holbrook and the Olmsted Brothers, and discuss additional municipal planning exercises. Both the downtown area and several residential neighborhoods will be featured.

Note: This is a bus and walking tour. Dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

W-2 | South Orange and Montrose Park Historic District Tour (working title)

Time: 1:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

Details coming soon.

2:00 to 3:15 p.m.

S-7 Will You Help Save This Place?

Time: 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m.

How can marketing, advocacy, and community outreach complement and expand on traditional historic preservation tactics? Staff from the National Trust for Historic Preservation will share successful examples of their work engaging local preservationists at more than 60 buildings and landscapes throughout the country as part of the National Treasures program, a portfolio of more than 60 sites that are threatened and face an uncertain future. Staff will also present the revived #ThisPlaceMatters campaign and share best practices. **Presenters: Grant Stevens, Jason Lloyd Clement**

S-8 Focus on Photography: Taking Photos that Improve Your Nominations, Surveys and Reviews

Time: 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m.

This session draws on the National Park Service's new guidance by presenting best practices and giving examples of good and bad photographs. In addition, a professional commercial photographer will teach attendees how to take publication-worthy photographs for a variety of preservation purposes, including National Register nominations, architectural surveys, and regulatory reviews. In an increasingly digital age that tends to value image over text, photographs that can present reality and tell a story are vital to the field of historic preservation. The goal of the session is to increase the quality of photographs that are used in preservation practice, thus increasing the visibility of historic resources and the work of preservationists.

Presenters: Kat Cannelongo, Douglas McVarish, William "Billy" Neumann, Sarah Scott

S-9 Unearthing the Future along I-280 in Orange: Reverse Archaeology through Art and Oral Histories *Time:* 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m.

This session explores ongoing efforts to document, interpret, and challenge the impact of the construction of Interstate-280 in Orange in the late 1960s. The roadway cut a path through the heart of the city, devastating the city's historic African-American and Italian-American communities. This is one of many examples in U.S. cities where highways disrupted and displaced vibrant communities. This case study includes oral history, ethnography, and arts interventions to understand the impacts of I-280, learn more about the communities before its construction, and envision how current residents can revitalize Orange's future. **Moderator: Candace Gabbard. Presenters: Mindy Thompson Fullilove, MD, Michael Malbrough, Chris Matthews, Katherine T. McCaffrey, Aubrey Murdock**

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S-10 How New Jersey's National Parks Are Engaging Visitors in New Ways

Time: 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m.

New Jersey's national parks are incorporating new technologies to reach out to new and youthful audiences. The state's historic sites and museums have much to learn from the national efforts:

- Thomas Edison National Historical Park's use of Skype and Periscope to connect with virtual visitors/students
- Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park showcases food, art, music, and literature from the local communities as part of their "Taste of Paterson" program.
- ◆ Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island utilize the virtual/social media connection for telling stories related to areas of the park that are not accessible to the public. **Moderator and Presenter: Vanessa Smiley.**

S-11 Effective Marketing for Heritage Tourism

Time: 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m.

Details coming soon.

S-12 Fundraising Session (working title)

Time: 2:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m.

Details coming soon.

3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Choice of Educational Sessions

S-13 | Learning from Loss: Strategies for Saving Endangered Sites

Time: 3:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

In recent years, New Jersey has suffered its share of high-profile battles for the preservation of critical landmarks. In 2015, Greystone Psychiatric Hospital was demolished. The Duke Mansion (at press time) is threatened with destruction. Hinchcliffe Stadium, after years of advocacy, public education, negotiation, and fundraising, may be on the road to restoration. Each year Preservation New Jersey publishes a list of the state's ten most endangered historic sites and updates the status of those landmarks lost, saved, or still in limbo. This session will explore some of the common challenges and strategies that property advocates have in communicating a site's significance, creating a supportive community and negotiating the route to saving a historic building or site. **Moderator:** Margaret Hickey, RA

S-14 Beyond the Tape Measure: Documenting Historic Properties in the 21st Century

Time: 3:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

Effectively and efficiently gathering information about existing building conditions will result in clearer direction to the project team, contractors, and owners as well as lead to more accurate scopes of work and cost estimates. While the technology may be pricier, the cost benefit analysis is worth a look. This session will present the use of 3D laser technology and drone (quadcopter) technology as utilized in the field. Attendees will come away with an understanding of the technologies and how they may be applicable for many projects. **Moderator: Jennifer Stark. Presenters: Annabelle Radcliffe-Trenner, Jennifer Stark, Kevin Hanna**

S-15 | Planning for Heritage Tourism

Time: 3:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

The success of heritage tourism depends upon how ready you are to welcome visitors. Creating a destination for heritage travelers requires not only building popularity for a significant place but almost as

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importantly on building infrastructure that can comfortably accommodate visitors. This session highlights the methods, strategies and planning tools for building and managing heritage tourism within the community by looking at examples from Charleston, South Carolina and the Garden State. **Moderator and Presenter: Dorothy P. Guzzo. Presenters: Michael Lysicatos, Amy Southerland**

S-16 Restoring the Glenmont Landscape Through Partnerships

Time: 3:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

The Glenmont Mansion is significant for its association with the productive life and work of Thomas Edison, who lived on the property from 1886 to 1931. Its landscape has changed due to storm damage, natural deterioration, and the removal of features. Following the preparation of a Cultural Landscape Report in 2010, the National Park Service has diligently partnered with other organizations to follow the treatment recommendations to return the Glenmont landscape to its former glory. Speakers will address replanting of flower beds and trees, the involvement of students from a Career Technical Education high school, and restoration and maintenance of the greenhouse to its historic appearance. **Moderator: Michelle Mihalkovitz. Presenters: Marcia Zweig, Amy Trimarco, Matthew Jacobs**

S-17 Deaccessioning 101

Time: 3:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m.

When museums, historic houses, and historic sites find their storage area overflowing or discover items in their collections that no longer have relevance to their mission, what should they do? Deaccessioning is the process of officially removing an object from a permanent collection, and while it is considered an accepted part of collection management, it also tends to make the headlines. This session will introduce the practice of deaccessioning, highlighting the legal and ethical issues involved, and provide a case study that will show how deaccessioning can be a routine solution to collections management problems and marshal an institution's resources for the long-term preservation of its permanent collection. **Moderator and Presenter: Briann G. Greenfield. Presenters: Heather Hope Kuruvilla, Sally Yerkovich MA, JD**

5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. **Closing Reception**

**Registration is now open for Building a Place For History:
2016 NJ History and Historic Preservation Conference**

This year's conference will take place over two days. A number of different registration options are available. You may register for events on one or both days. Two-day package deals and a la carte options are priced below.

Please note: Prices will increase on **May 1**. To register, visit the <http://www.njht.org/>. Then just scroll down on the "Building a Place for History" announcement and click on the underlined link.

**SUPPORT THE FRIENDS OF NEW JERSEY HERITAGE BY ATTENDING
THE OPENING RECEPTION:**

**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8.**

<http://www.njpreservationconference.org/>

**On the right side, click on "Registration." Then scroll down the list to
a la carte - Opening Reception: Celebrating 100 Years of the National Park
Service Ticket; Includes ticket to the Gala Reception on 6/8/2016 only.**

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN for the 2016 Spirit of the Jerseys State History Fair

Twelve years ago, the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry marked the centennial of the state's acquisition of its first historic site, the Indian King Tavern in Haddonfield, with the very first SPIRIT of the JERSEYS State History Fair. Since that time, the event has expanded each year as more organizations have chosen to participate—over 200 in our 10th year! Visitation has also grown from an initial 1,500 to over 6,000.

In 2016, the fair will again be held at Monmouth Battlefield State Park in Manalapan, NJ. We are reaching out to all the groups who have participated in the past as well as those who haven't yet joined us. We hope many of you will plan to participate in 2016!

There are many ways to be involved. You can host an information table, set up a display, offer programming, come as a 1st person reenactor/interpreter, or sponsor a program or historical character. If you are short-staffed, consider partnering with another organization.

Whatever your level of participation, we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, May 14th at Monmouth Battlefield State Park, 16 Business Route 33, Manalapan, NJ, from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Rain or shine.

Don't miss out! Register now at www.njhistoryfair.org. **Participation is FREE** for nonprofit historical organizations. Help us spread the word! **The deadline for filing an application is Friday, April 15, 2016.**

Should you have any questions about the fair or your participation in it, please do not hesitate to contact me at 973-962-2240 or historyfair@dep.nj.gov

Beverly Weaver, Chair

NJ State History Fair, Office of Historic Sites
PO Box 420, Mail Code 501-04
501 E. State Street
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420
EMAIL: historyfair@dep.state.nj.us
PHONE: 973-962-2240
FAX: 973-962-2247

Vicki Chirco, Registration Chair

D&R Canal State Park
145 Mapleton Road
Princeton, NJ 08854
EMAIL: njhistoryfair@verizon.net
PHONE: 609-924-5705
FAX: 609-924-6507

SPIRIT
of the
JERSEYS
State History Fair

Saturday
May 14th, 2016
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Parking \$10/vehicle

**MONMOUTH
BATTLEFIELD
STATE PARK**
Manalapan NJ, 07726

RAIN SHINE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
call: 732-462-9616
e-mail: Historyfair@dep.nj.gov
visit: njhistoryfair.org

Department of Environmental Protection Office of Historic Sites Division of Parks and Forestry

THE VALUE OF HISTORY

SEVEN WAYS IT IS **ESSENTIAL** »

TO OURSELVES

- **IDENTITY** » History nurtures personal identity in an intercultural world. History enables people to discover their own place in the stories of their families, communities, and nation. They learn the stories of the many individuals and groups that have come before them and shaped the world in which they live. There are stories of freedom and equality, injustice and struggle, loss and achievement, and courage and triumph. Through these varied stories, they create systems of personal values that guide their approach to life and relationships with others.
- **CRITICAL SKILLS** » History teaches critical 21st century skills and independent thinking. The practice of history teaches research, judgment of the accuracy and reliability of sources, validation of facts, awareness of multiple perspectives and biases, analysis of conflicting evidence, sequencing to discern causes, synthesis to present a coherent interpretation, clear and persuasive written and oral communication, and other skills that have been identified as critical to a successful and productive life in the 21st century.

TO OUR COMMUNITIES

- **VITAL PLACES TO LIVE AND WORK** » History lays the groundwork for strong, resilient communities. No place really becomes a community until it is wrapped in human memory: family stories, tribal traditions, civic commemorations. No place is a community until it has awareness of its history. Our connections and commitment to one another are strengthened when we share stories and experiences.

- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** » History is a catalyst for economic growth. People are drawn to communities that have preserved a strong sense of historical identity and character. Cultural heritage is a demonstrated economic asset and an essential component of any vibrant local economy, providing an infrastructure that attracts talent and enhances business development.

TO OUR FUTURE

- **ENGAGED CITIZENS** » History helps people craft better solutions. At the heart of democracy is the practice of individuals coming together to express views and take action. By bringing history into discussions about contemporary issues, we can better understand the origins of and multiple perspectives on the challenges facing our communities and nation. This can clarify misperceptions, reveal complexities, temper volatile viewpoints, open people to new possibilities, and lead to more effective solutions for today's challenges. [More here.](#)
- **LEADERSHIP** » History inspires local and global leaders. History provides leaders with inspiration and role models for meeting the complex challenges that face our communities, nation, and the world. It may be a parent, grandparent or distant ancestor, a local or national hero, or someone famous or someone little known. Their stories reveal how they met the challenges of their day, which can give new leaders the courage and wisdom to confront the challenges of our time.
- **LEGACY** » History, saved and preserved, is the foundation for future generations. History is crucial to preserving democracy for the future by explaining our shared past. Through the preservation of authentic, meaningful places, documents, artifacts, images, and stories, we leave a foundation upon which future Americans can build. Without the preservation of our histories, future citizens will have no grounding in what it means to be an American.

THE VALUE OF HISTORY

WHO WE ARE

The History Relevance Campaign is a group of history professionals posing questions about what makes history relevant today. The group came together in early 2013 and has held meetings, sessions, and open forums to formulate these seven principles at the American Alliance of Museums (2013), National Council on Public History (2013 and 2014), National History Day (2013), American Association for State and Local History (2013 and 2014), Idaho Heritage Conference (2013),

American Historical Association (2014), New Jersey History and Historic Preservation Conference (2014), State Historical Administrators Meeting (2013), and the Smithsonian Affiliates Conference (2014). We thank the many conference session attendees who provided the ideas behind and wording for the seven values. These values also find expression in a framework being developed by the State Historical Administrators Meeting.

CALL TO ACTION »

We call on organizations to endorse, share, and use this statement on the value of history in contemporary life. With common agreement, commitment, and open conversation about why history is important, we believe the historical community can change the common perception that history is nice, but not essential.

Endorsing this statement in principle is an initial step. We encourage you to adapt and incorporate these ideas into projects, training materials, mission statements, websites, marketing materials, and other institutional outlets. The seven core values are not new, but we believe that their articulation with the intent to make real, measurable change across the profession and into public realms represents a fresh start for our discipline.

[LEARN MORE» historyrelevance.com](http://historyrelevance.com)

On March 5, 2016 the board of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey voted unanimously to endorse the history relevancy statement.

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, June 5 – Middlesex County History Day

The Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage will hold its second annual History Day on Sunday, June 5, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at East Jersey Old Town Village, located in Johnson Park in Piscataway.

Last year's event attracted over 500 visitors and we hope this year's event will be an even greater success. We will feature a variety of living history demonstrations, including blacksmithing, furniture making, chair caning, decorative arts, and more.

Additionally, we are inviting all historical societies and museums to register, free of charge. We will have 8' x 2.5' tables available for all registered groups to use for displays and literature. Our goal for this event is to raise public awareness of local history.

If you would like to register your group or obtain further details, please use my contact information below. If you participated last year, we thank you for making the event a resounding success. We look forward to your response and hope that you will join us.

Sincerely,
Sarah K. Filik, Curator of Exhibits and History Programs
Phone: 732-745-3030, ext. 304
Email: sarah.filik@co.middlesex.nj.us



REOPENING OF THE FIRST BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

By Rand Scholet

After a few years of resolve, the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park (Philadelphia), Friends of Independence NHP, and the Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society announce the project launch of the planned reopening of the first Bank of the United States, with an initial target date of 2021. All three organizations are dedicated to its timely opening. Friends of Independence NHP will lead the project planning and funding initiatives. Suzanne Johansson Cawley has been named the project lead.

The Bank of the United States (aka “First Bank”) will have permanent and temporary exhibits whose primary purpose is to educate the public on the early U.S. economic components that pivoted the nation from poverty to prosperity, including: credit; debt; revenue; expense; finance; bonds; investment; minting coinage; etc., being secured by the utility of the First Bank. The architect of the U.S. economy, Alexander Hamilton, served as Secretary of Treasury from 1789 to 1795. The National Park Service plans for the First Bank exhibits to be interactive and engaging.



The First Bank building is a National Historic Landmark, the only federal building that survives from George Washington’s presidency. Closed to the public for over 30 years, it is a large and very attractive building inside and out (see photos). The building is comprised of three levels, plus a large basement



(including a vault). Philadelphia is the birthplace of America: Continental and Confederation Congresses; Declaration of Independence; War for Independence (civilian management); U.S. Constitution; U.S. economy; U.S. capital (1790-1800). It must be noted that New York City played key roles for the U.S. Congress and U.S. economic development under the U.S. Constitution while the U.S. capital (1789-90). The First Bank is featured prominently in the “Hamilton” musical in the “rap battle between Jefferson and Hamilton over the national bank.”

It may be a fair assessment that this is one of three major developments in the past 25 years (50? 100? ever?) to fortify Alexander Hamilton’s legacy for generations to come:

- #1 The National Park Service elevated, extracted, relocated, and restored Hamilton’s home, “*The Grange*” (2008-2011)
- #2 “*Hamilton: An American Musical*” by Lin-Manuel Miranda & his creative team (2015)
- #3 *The Bank of the United States* with exhibits on Hamilton’s economic, financial, banking foundations (target: 2021)

There have been other key contributors as well... Organizations that have substantially contributed to his legacy, that exist today:

(continued on page thirteen)

- #1 New-York Historical Society (1804)
- #2 National Park Service: Hamilton Grange (1962), Manhattan; Christiansted, St. Croix USVI
- #3 Nevis Historical and Conservation Society (1980)
- #4 Museum of American Finance (1989)
- #5 Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (1994)
- #6 The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society (2011)

Key authors on Hamilton in recent decades: (alphabetical): Brookhiser, Chernow, Cowen, Fleming, Freeman, Gordon, Knott, McDonald, Newton, Sylla, Wright.

A special commendation for the First Bank project moving forward is due to the leadership of NPS Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and her team. Also to the Board of the *Friends of Independence NHP*.



We look forward to your celebration of, and support for, this major development. If you are so inclined, please let the *Friends of Independence* (FINHP) know of your gratitude for their commitment to the First Bank project: 'like' and leave comment here. www.facebook.com/FINHP/?fref=ts
 Standing on the steps of the First Bank for the 225th chartering anniversary in the AHA Facebook photo:
 Pictured above: Row 1 (L-R) AHA Society Rand Scholet; Alexander Hamilton; Thomas Jefferson; NPS INHP Cynthia MacLeod; AHA Society Nicole Scholet De Villavicencio
Row 2 FINHP Joyce Walker; FINHP Suzanne Cawley; Museum of American Finance David Cowen; NPS INHP Doris Fanelli. Row 3 FINHP Tom Caramanico; SAR Ben Wolf; FINHP Maiti Gallen; Paterson Great Falls Leonard Zax. (IHNP=Independence National Historical Park)

Regards,
 Rand Scholet, President, The Alexander Hamilton Awareness Society

League Offers Workshops for Members

The New Jersey Historical Commission has changed its grant program to make it more equitable for smaller organizations to compete with large history icons in the state. Beginning with Fiscal Year 2017, which begins June 30,

2016, history organizations with an annual budget less than \$100,000 will be able to apply directly to their own county's Culture and Heritage agency for grant funding. These grants will fund general operating expenses and/or special programs or projects.



The League will offer workshops around the state in the coming months to assist smaller organizations in strengthening their societies and updating their efforts to reflect the goals of the NJ Historical Commission that history organizations

become more involved in their communities. The following are the workshops that will be offered:

Your Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Developing Your Long-Range Plan Your mission statement is the heart of your organization. Is it clear and concise? Do your board and your members know exactly what you are all about? Do you know where you are headed? This workshop will cover these basic documents that are critical for the success of any organization.

Preparing a Good Budget, Filling Out Your Financial Reports Are you applying for or considering applying for grants? Do you want to attract generous supporters? It's not enough to say how much you want. You have to say why you want it. And your financial information must be in "good order." This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget and required financial reports as well as the various financial forms required for grants or support requests.

Writing a Good Narrative, Using Boilerplate Documents Are you applying for grants? Are you asking for corporate support? The narrative is the heart of any grant application. This workshop will give you the tools you need to write successful grant narratives, as well as shortcuts to make the grant writing process less time consuming.

Board Composition, Leadership, Developing Volunteers The success or failure of your organization depends on having the right board and good people in leadership roles. Many of your board members will come from the ranks of volunteers. This workshop will cover how to insure that you have a dedicated and effective board, including board roles and responsibilities, and how to recruit volunteers and develop them into board candidates.

Workshops will be offered on Saturdays and will include two sessions with continental breakfast and lunch included. If your organization would be interested in hosting a workshop, please contact Pary Tell at pary.bruce@earthlink.net. Watch for more information in the coming months for workshop dates and locations.

Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Publication Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. Works by individual members are not eligible to be considered. All entries must have been published during the calendar year prior to the year in which the award is presented. Entries must have been authored or published by the society. Republications will not be accepted. In the case of newsletters, only one issue per organization should be submitted for consideration. Entries are due no later than March 1 of the current year. They should be mailed to JB Vogt, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone message at 908-534-4600 or email jnvt6@gmail.com with questions.

NEWSLETTERS

Front Page:

Is it eye-catching?

Does it clearly identify the name of the group, the site, the date, the location?

Is there a web address given?

Contents:

Does it contain articles that add to our historic knowledge or understanding of a topic?

Does it encourage participation in the organization's activities? Does it encourage membership?

Does it contain articles about events that are current (or were at the time it was published)?

Does it review previous activities and successes?

Does it promote other heritage tourism? Does it promote other sites? Does the group partner with other sites?

Can it be viewed online?

Pictures:

Do they have historic or cultural value?

Are they clearly labeled and credited to the photographer?

Graphic quality—Are they eye-catching?

Editing:

Are there misspellings, typographical errors, wrong page numbers, etc?

Contact Info:

Is it easy to contact the group or editor for more information? Is there an address, phone number, and/or email to contact?

Does the reader feel encouraged or welcomed to do so?

POSTERS

- 1) Quality of graphics
- 2) Uniqueness of subject
- 3) **Historic or cultural value**
- 4) Likelihood of long-term retention
- 5) Likelihood it will be framed/hung

CALENDARS

- 1) Eye-catching cover

2) **Historic pictures**

3) User friendly (enough space to jot a note each day)

4) Records significant holidays or historic dates

5) **Records society events**

BOOKS, BOOKLETS, and JOURNALS

(3 separate categories)

Significance of research (how much time/effort went into the research)

Quality of sources

How much does it add to our knowledge of the subject?

Clarity of presentation

Quality of illustrations

Editing

PAMPHLETS AND BROCHURES

(separate categories)

Includes handouts describing timed exhibits, walking tours, etc.

Clarity of presentation

Graphic appeal

Likelihood of long term retention

Significance of research

Quality of sources

DVDs

Same as books, except more emphasis placed on graphics and eye appeal.



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Somerville Through Time

By James L. Sommerville III, Robert H. Barth, and Linda J. Barth

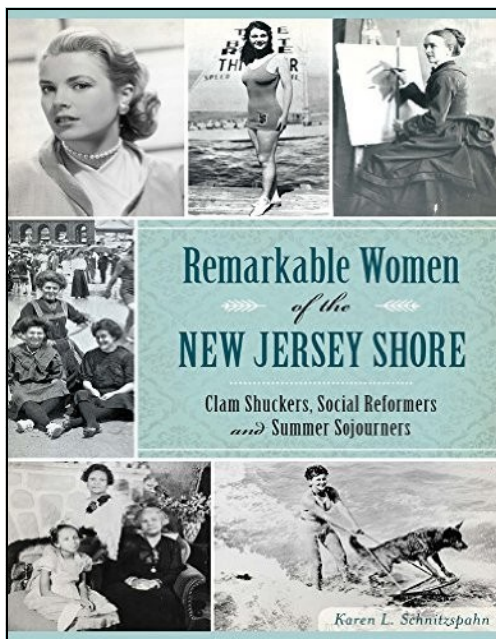
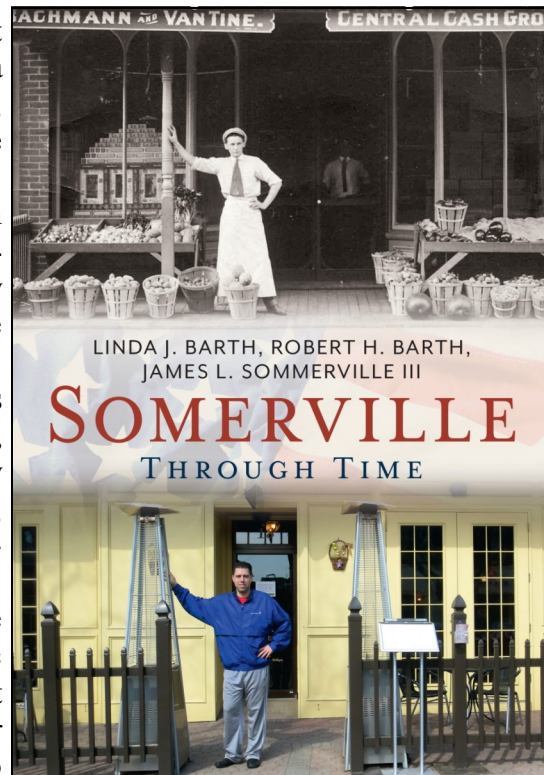
Somerville Through Time is a journey through the county seat of Somerset County. Using then-and-now photos the book provides a glimpse into the life of the village and its people of a century ago and, through comparison with modern views, shows the changes in the borough over time.

The borough’s residents include George Washington, who lived in Somerville for six months (December 11, 1778, to June 3, 1779) during the Middlebrook Cantonment of the American Revolution. Mary Gaston was one of the first female physicians in New Jersey and one of the founders of Somerset Hospital.

The historic views focus mainly on the village in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Somerville grew up around a church, courthouse, tavern built shortly after the American Revolution. The town grew rapidly after the completion of the railroad in the 1840s. In 1909, Somerville formally separated from Bridgewater Township and became an independent borough.

For over forty years, James L. Sommerville III has served as the reference librarian at the town library. He has researched the historic views in the book. Robert H. Barth meticulously lined up the current buildings in town to match the historic views. Linda J. Barth, author of several other books about New Jersey, wrote the captions to compare the two images.

Somerville Through Time can be purchased through Amazon or Barnes & Noble, by contacting the authors (barthlinda123@aol.com; 908-240-0488), or by visiting the website, www.somervillethroughtime.com.



**Remarkable Women of the New Jersey Shore:
Clam Shuckers, Social Reformers and Summer Sojourners**

By Karen L. Schnitzspahn

History is everywhere along the New Jersey Shore, from the lighthouses that dot the coast to the Victorian grandeur of Cape May.

Less visible are the stories of the women who helped shape that past. Trailblazing young women in Belmar and Wildwood became lifeguards, proving that women were just as capable as men. Cindy Zipf has worked tirelessly for more than thirty years to stop ocean pollution and protect marine life. Theatrical stars, pioneering politicians, a Titanic survivor, and a cosmetics entrepreneur all called the Jersey Shore home. Even several first ladies vacationed in towns along the coast.

While countless women have contributed to the region’s past, local author Karen L. Schnitzspahn chronicles some of the most intriguing stories of the remarkable women of the Jersey Shore.

The daughter of a magician and a mask maker, Karen is a native of New

(continued on the next page)

Brunswick, New Jersey. With this unusual and creative background, she eventually studied theater and art. For many years, Karen worked as a professional puppeteer both making and operating various types of puppets. In the early 1980s, she designed puppet programs for childhood lead poisoning prevention statewide and for Gateway National Park's Sandy Hook Unit to teach visitors about the wildlife. Her puppetry career also included working on educational videos about environmental concerns.

Karen has always enjoyed writing and researching. Her articles and essays about the New Jersey Shore, where she's lived for many years, have appeared in magazines and newspapers. A longtime fascination with early theatrical personalities led her to write a unique book, *Stars of the New Jersey Shore, A Theatrical History* (Schiffer Publishing, 2007). Many of the illustrations in this volume are from Karen's collection of vintage theatrical photos and memorabilia.

Stories handed down by her family about the New Jersey coast during the 1920s provided the inspiration for her pictorial, hardcover "Jazz Age" book, *The Roaring '20s at the Jersey Shore* (Schiffer Publishing, 2009).

Jersey Shore Food History: Victorian Feasts to Boardwalk Treats was published by The History Press in 2012. Though she doesn't consider herself to be a "foodie," she enjoys the cultural history of foods and she loves to eat!

The book is available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble and at some independent bookstores such as Booktowne in Manasquan and River Road Books in Fair Haven and at some historical museums.

A Woman's Crusade: Alice Paul and the Battle for the Ballot

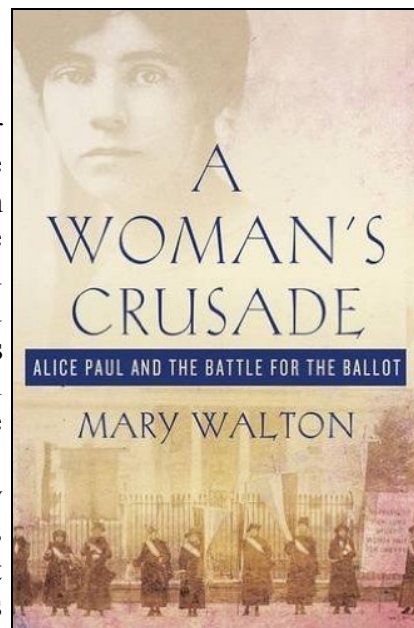
By Mary Walton

Alice Paul began her life as a studious girl from a strict Quaker family in New Jersey. In 1907, a scholarship took her to England, where she developed a passionate devotion to the suffrage movement. Upon her return to the United States, Alice became the leader of the militant wing of the American suffrage movement. Calling themselves "Silent Sentinels," she and her followers were the first protestors to picket the White House. Arrested and jailed, they went on hunger strikes and were force-fed and brutalized. Years before Gandhi's campaign of nonviolent resistance, and decades before civil rights demonstrations, Alice Paul practiced peaceful civil disobedience in the pursuit of equal rights for women.

With her daring and unconventional tactics, Alice Paul eventually succeeded in forcing President Woodrow Wilson and a reluctant U.S. Congress to pass the Nineteenth Amendment, granting women the right to vote. Here at last is the inspiring story of the young woman whose dedication to women's rights made that long-held dream a reality.

This book is available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

Mary Walton has written four previous works of nonfiction. For twenty-two years, until 1994, she was a reporter for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, where she wrote more than a hundred magazine stories as a staff writer for the *Sunday Inquirer* magazine. She has also written for the *New York Times*, *Washingtonian*, the *Washington Monthly* and the *American Journalism Review*. After graduation from Harvard University, and a turn at social work and community organizing, she began her journalism career in 1969 as a reporter at the *Charleston [WV] Gazette*. She lives in Philadelphia, PA, with her husband Charles Layton.



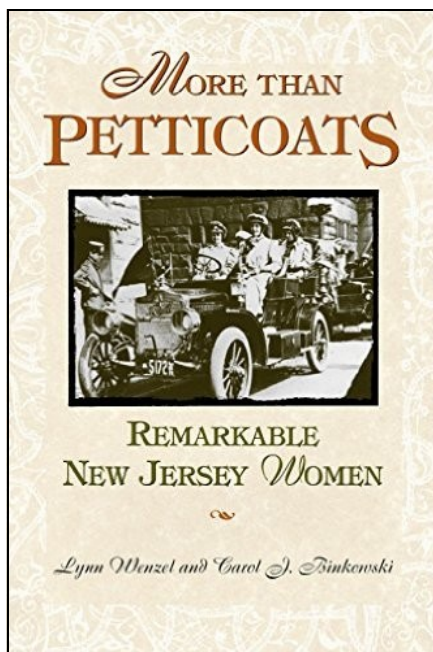
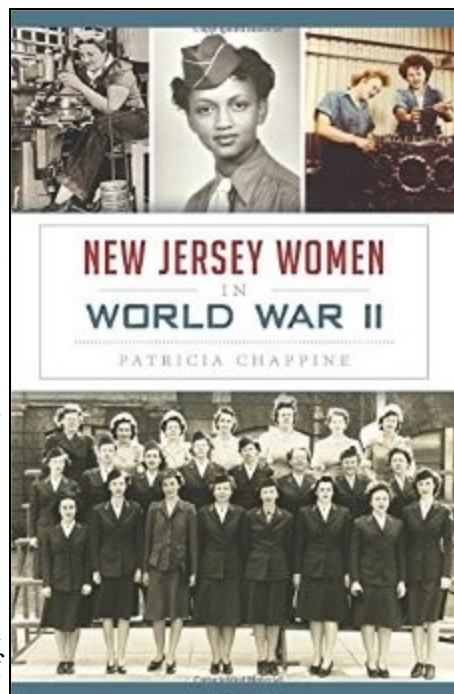
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New Jersey Women in World War II

By Patricia Chappine

Real-life Rosie the Riveters worked the lines in New Jersey's factories, such as those of General Motors' Eastern Aircraft Division, while women on the vulnerable coast enforced blackout orders. Others sold war bonds, planted victory gardens, and conserved materials for the war effort. Thousands more served as nurses and in branches of the armed forces like the Women's Army Corps and the U.S. Navy's Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES). African American women fought a double war—one against the nation's enemies and another against discrimination. Historian Patricia Chappine explores the pivotal roles that New Jersey women played in World War II.

Patricia Chappine is an adjunct professor at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and Atlantic Cape Community College. She earned a bachelors degree in sociology and a masters degree in Holocaust and genocide studies from the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey and is currently a PhD student in the history and culture program at Drew University. She is a member of the New Jersey Historical Society, Atlantic County Historical Society and Hammonton Historical Society.



More Than Petticoats:

Remarkable New Jersey Women

By Lynn Wenzel and Carol J. Binkowski

More than Petticoats: Remarkable New Jersey Women features 12 exceptional women born prior to 1900. Portraits include Alice Huyler Ramsey, the first woman to drive across America; Hannah Silverman, a labor activist during the Paterson silk strikes who fought fearlessly for better working conditions; Abigail Goodwin, a gentle Quaker who bravely conducted many slaves to freedom from her home on the Underground Railroad; and Clara Maass, a nurse who gave her life to stop the scourge of yellow fever. Each woman in this book made lasting contributions to society and embodied a fierce determination and independent spirit that is as inspiring now as it was then.

Lynn Wenzel's articles, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Newsweek*, *The New York Times*, *Newsday*, and *Ms.* She was a contributing writer to the anthology *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women* and is a nationally syndicated feature writer on antiques and collectibles. For many years, she was managing editor of *New Directions for Women*, an international feminist news magazine. She lives in the historic Gold Rush town of Nevada City, California, with her husband, Jeff.

Carol J. Binkowski is the author of *Musical New York: An Informal Guide to Its History and Legends and a Walking Tour of Its Sites and Landmarks* and articles that have appeared in *Clavier*, *New York Daily News*, *The Optimist*, *The Instrumentalist*, and other publications. She is a reviewer for *Library Journal*. A pianist and as a staff organist at the Church Center for the United Nations, she has performed and lectured throughout the New Jersey Public Library System, as well as at such historic landmarks as South Street Seaport in New York City. Carol lives in Bloomfield, New Jersey, with her husband, Richard, and daughter, Daria.

The League of Historical Societies Spring Meeting

Hosted by the Tewksbury Historical Society

Zion Lutheran Christian Education Building, 18 Miller Avenue, Oldwick, NJ 08858

Saturday, June 11, 2016 – 908-832-6734

AGENDA

9:00 – Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30 – Welcome and Introductions – Suzanne Lagay, Hunterdon County Freeholder Director

9:45 – League Business Meeting

10:00 – Kevin Hale Publication Awards

10:30 - Break

10:45 – Presentation from Tewksbury Historical Society – History of Tewksbury Township

12:00 – Lunch in same location

1:00 – 4:00 – LOCAL TOURS*

Guided Walking Tour of Oldwick – See the eclectic architecture of Oldwick’s various buildings and hear stories and anecdotes about past residents. Note: If it should rain, this tour will be given via slide show at the meeting location

Guided tour of the Zion Lutheran Church & Cemetery – visit New Jersey’s oldest still active Lutheran Church.

Guided tour of the grave of John Honeyman, General Washington’s spy during the Revolutionary War at the Lamington Presbyterian Church Cemetery

Self-guided Auto Tour of Tewksbury – drive on your own traversing Tewksbury’s scenic and historic roads, stopping at points of interest.

* Maps and guides will be distributed at the meeting.

SUGGESTED HOTELS

Lebanon Courtyard by Marriott 300 Corporate Drive Lebanon, NJ 08833; 908-236-8500

www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/soslb-courtyard-lebanon/ About 8 miles away

Hyatt House 3141 Route 22 East Branchburg, NJ 08876; 908-704-2191 <http://branchburg.house.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html> About 10 miles away

QUESTIONS? For more information, feel free to email us at tewksburyhistory@earthlink.net. Questions on the morning of June 11: 908-963-2304 (Shaun)

REGISTRATION FORM – PLEASE RETURN BY JUNE 1, 2016

Please include a check for \$25 per person, payable to the Tewksbury Historical Society.

Mail to: THS League Meeting, P.O. Box 457, Oldwick, NJ 08858

✂

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Name _____

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Address _____

City State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Affiliation _____

DIRECTIONS TO ZION LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BUILDING 18 Miller Avenue, Oldwick, NJ 08858

From North via Garden State Parkway:

Take Parkway South to Exit 142A to Interstate 78 West. Continue on I-78 West to Exit 24, Oldwick/Whitehouse (approx. 30 miles). Take Exit 24 and keep right. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto County Route 523 North. In approx. 1 mile you will be at the intersection of County Routes 523 & 517 at a traffic light. Continue north on County Route 517, a.k.a. Old Turnpike Road. You will enter the village of Oldwick. Make the 3rd right onto Church Street (large white church will be on corner). Go 1 block and the Christian Education Building will be on your right. Sign on corner, entrance just past sign.

From North via New Jersey Turnpike:

Take New Jersey Turnpike South to exit 14 for I-78. Take I-78 West to Exit 24 Oldwick/Whitehouse (approx. 30 miles). Follow directions From North via Parkway.

From South via Garden State Parkway:

Take Parkway North to Exit 127 for Route 440/Interstate 287. Follow signs for I-287 North. Continue on I-287 North to Interstate 78 (approx. 20 miles). Take Exit 30 for I-78 West. Continue on I-78 West to Exit 24 (Oldwick/Whitehouse). Take Exit 24 and keep right. At the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto County Route 523 North. In approx. 1 mile you will be at the intersection of County Routes 523 & 517 at a traffic light. Continue north on County Route 517, a.k.a. Old Turnpike Road. You will enter the village of Oldwick. Make the 3rd right onto Church Street (large white Church will be on corner). Go 1 block and the Christian Education Building will be on your right. Sign on corner, entrance just past sign.

From South via New Jersey Turnpike:

Take New Jersey Turnpike North to exit 10 for I-287. Follow signs for I-287 North. Continue on I-287 North to Interstate 78 (approx. 20 miles). Take Exit 30 for I-78 West. Follow directions from South via Parkway.

From East via Route 80:

Take Interstate 80 West to Exit 25 for Route 206. Take Route 206 South to County Route 523/ Lamington Road in Bedminster (approx. 30 miles). Turn right onto County Route 523/ Lamington Road heading west until you reach the end at a traffic light. Turn right onto County Route 517 a.k.a. Old Turnpike Road. You will enter the village of Oldwick. Make the 3rd right onto Church Street (large white Church will be on corner). Go 1 block and the Christian Education Building will be on your right. Sign on corner, entrance just past sign.

