

LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 41 No. 1 www.lhsnj.org Winter 2016

Winter Meeting
Naval Air Station Wildwood/
Wildwood Historical Society,
Cape May County
April 9, 2016

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

ENDING MYTHS ON THE BATTLE OF PRINCETON

By Kip Cherry, Princeton Battlefield Society

There is much misinformation floating around on the Battle of Princeton. There have been some repeated misguided claims that the Battle of Princeton "was just a series of skirmishes all the way to Nassau Hall." David Hackett Fischer focused on this in his Letter of Support for Princeton Battlefield State Park and the Counter Attack Site, when it was proposed to become one of

the 11 Most Endangered sites in the U.S. for 2012.

In 2011, David Hackett Fischer wrote: "One question of historical fact is disputed by the Institute (for Advanced Study). Several spokespersons asserted that major fighting in the battle did not occur on the land it wishes to develop. They are mistaken (underline added). The climax of the battle was a major assault by Washington's Continental troops, who broke the British line in very heavy fighting. This event happened primarily on the open field that the Institute proposes to use for a housing project. Five major studies have all reached the same result. Several archaeological digs have turned up more density of artifacts from the battle than in the park itself. This land is as central to the battle of Princeton as the field of Pickett's Charge is to Gettysburg and as Omaha Beach is to D-Day."

As demonstrated by archaeological evidence and the study of original accounts, we know that the second phase of the battle, the counter attack, was the decisive and critical battle. Based on the IAS's own archaeological investigations, the first by Richard Hunter, completed at the request of the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), and the second completed by the Ottery Group, the heart of the battle was the Counter Attack Site on Maxwell Field—that's where the Battle was won and that is from where the British fled. This has been endorsed

by the Civil War Trust, the American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP) of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

It is also the contention of the Princeton Battlefield Society (PBS) that the approvals and permits that the IAS hold are based upon a grossly inaccurate Letter of Interpretation (LOI) (continued on page three)



SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

April 9, 2016 Naval Air Station Wildwood/Wildwood Historical Society, Cape May County
Tewksbury Historical Society, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County

November 5, 2016 New Jersey Historical Society, Newark, Essex 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, <u>barthlinda123@aol.com</u>, 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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DEADLINE: Submissions for the spring issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than March 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.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

The League of Historical Societies is pleased to represent over 50.000 members of the New Jersey history community.

These members belong to over 250 historical societies, libraries. commissions, museums throughout the state.

The League's board members continue to seek out new members, both organizational and individual. If you know of a society, library, or other group interested in history, please let us know by contacting Linda Barth by phone (908-240-0488) or by email (barthlinda123@aol.com).

Many of you are familiar with the grant procedures of the New Jersev Historical Commission. But those procedures are about to change. Beginning in 2017, grants for organizations with budgets under \$100,000 will apply to their own county cultural and heritage commission. You can read all of the details in the article on page six.

Remember to submit your society's publications to our Kevin Hale Awards Competition before March 1. See page fifteen for details.

This issue is a bit later than usual because the League membership meeting is being held later. Instead of March, the meeting in Wildwood will be held on April 9. Check pages nineteen and twenty for all of the details.

that mistakenly did not account for wetlands on-site primarily because they were not reported to DEP by the applicant. We have asked DEP to stay or withdraw this LOI. It is unfortunate that these wetlands were not spotted by DEP during their confirmatory site inspection.

Also unfortunately, in spite of compelling evidence presented to DEP by PBS regarding on-site wetland flora, the presence of surface water, and the existence of a boring containing mottled soils that clearly indicate the presence of wetlands, the DEP seems to have clearly concluded that their best response is to deny the validity of everything presented by the Objectors.

The presence of wetlands on the site is very important for many reasons. One is that under the National Historic Preservation Act and under NJ Statutes, through what is referred to as Section 106, the presence of wetlands triggers a review of the historical significance of the site, its archaeology and its historic landscape.

Early in the siting process, wetlands were identified by DEP on the site and Section 106 was, in fact, invoked. The State's Historic Preservation Officer at the time, Dorothy Guzzo, made two determinations. In 2006 Ms. Guzzo noted that a portion of the site is listed as a National Historic Landmark, a classification that puts it with other top historic sites in the U.S. such as the White House and the Empire State Building. At that time Ms. Guzzo also required that an archaeological investigation be conducted. Then in 2007, Ms. Guzzo concluded that the project created a significant adverse impact. On this basis Ms. Guzzo opposed granting a permit and required that an alternative-sites analysis must be completed to find a new site for the project. The reason that this study was not completed was because the project area was reconfigured to avoid wetlands known to DEP, and DEP did not recognize the existence of wetlands that had gone unreported.

The question has been: what steps should PBS be taking ongoing to stop the construction and the destruction of the site. Our next step has been to file a 60-Day Notice showing the Princeton Battlefield Society's intention to file a lawsuit against the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) under the Clean Water Act, for fraudulently filling in wetlands.

We also note that the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission (DRCC) originally voted NOT to approve the current IAS plan and that the Chair did gavel the case closed. Unfortunately a member of the Commission changed his vote a month later. We are appealing this as a violation of due process and as political interference in the deliberations of the Commission. And we are also appealing the Planning Board's decision.

Another myth is that the IAS was involved in creating the park. This is not true. The IAS was asked to participate in creating the park by Governor Edge circa 1944. Over the years that followed, the IAS repeatedly indicated that it was interested but nothing happened. The Park was officially formed in 1946.

That same year Governor Edge completed his tenure and was replaced by Governor Driscoll in 1947. Four years later, in 1951, a frustrated Governor Driscoll asked for a vote of the IAS Board of Trustees to



determine whether the IAS would contribute to the Park. The Trustees voted NOT to participate. A copy of the letter from IAS Director Robert Oppenheimer to Governor Driscoll is on the PBS website.

Maxwell Field, owned by Mr. Maxwell, was planned by Governor Edge from the beginning to become part of the Park. Maxwell had an intense respect for General Mercer as illustrated by the fact that he named his home "Mercer Manor." The Sincerbeaux Map, which guided the Governor's plans, showed British and American troops on

(continued on page four)



Maxwell Field. A copy of Governor Edge's acquisition map is on the PBS website. Mysteriously, the acquisition by the State did not happen; instead the IAS purchased the property.

PBS has initiated a number of actions to save Maxwell Field. Most recently PBS has filed a 60-Day Notice that it plans to file a lawsuit under the Clean Water Act for filling a wetland, and at the end of January we filed an appeal of the DRCC's approval decision including its allowance of a revote a month after the DRCC's formal decision had been concluded and gaveled.

If you are interested in helping PBS take action, please sign our petition,

which can be accessed via this link: https://www.change.org/p/preserve-george-washington-s-victory-site-at-Princeton. We already have about 12,000 signatures. Each signature automatically generates an e-mail to Governor Christie.

And if you are interested in donating to our Preservation Defense Fund, please click on the PayPal button on our home page: www.ThePrincetonBattlefieldSociety.com, or make your check out to: Princeton Battlefield Society, P.O. Box 7645, Princeton, NJ 08540. Please be sure to put "PDF" (Preservation Defense Fund) in the memo field of your check. If you use PayPal and wish your donation to go for something other than the PDF, please send an e-mail to Kip specifying how you want your donation used at PrincetonBattlefieldSocInfo@gmail.com.

Kip Cherry, 1st VP, Princeton Battlefield Society

AMERICAN LABOR MUSEUM RECEIVES GRANT

Haledon, New Jersey – The American Labor Museum/Botto House National Landmark is proud to be a recipient of a 2015 grant from Passaic County's Open Space & Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. The \$25,000 grant funds are earmarked to support the museum's restoration of the Botto House National Landmark.

The Botto House National Landmark, home of the American Labor Museum, located at 83 Norwood Street, Haledon, New Jersey. It was the meeting place for over 20,000 silk mill workers during the 1913 Paterson Silk Strike. The museum offers a free lending library, restored period rooms, changing exhibits, Museum Store, Old World Gardens, educational programs, and special events. The museum's hours of operation are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Tours are offered Wednesday through Saturday from 1-4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

For further information, please visit the museum's website www.labormuseum.org or contact the museum at 973-595-7953 or email labormuseum@aol.com.



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 Tayern 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

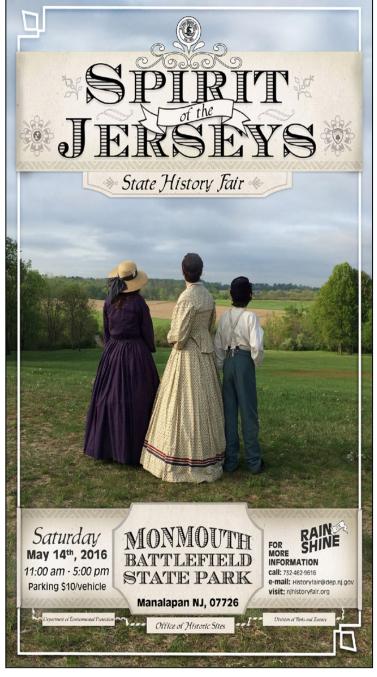
PHONE: 973-962-2240 FAX: 973-962-2247

Vicki Chirco, Registration Chair

D&R Canal State Park 145 Mapleton Road Princeton, NJ 08854

EMAIL: <u>njhistoryfair@verizon,net</u>

PHONE: 609-924-5705 FAX: 609-924-6507





CHANGE IN GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR NEXT YEAR

Beginning with the FY 2017 New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) grants, there will be a change in how historical societies and other organizations can apply for grant funding.

Any organization with an annual budget of \$100,000 or over must apply directly to the NJHC for its funding. This includes both GOS and special project funding. All other organizations must apply to their local county's cultural & historic/heritage commission or the equivalent county department.

Some counties already have a local grant process in place, but others do not. As the year progresses, all counties will have a process in place to award grant funding to local organizations.

The NJHC will increase the funding given to the county cultural and historic agencies to accommodate the increase in grant requests. This is an advantage to smaller history organizations. Previously, when organizations applied to the NJHC, all organizations were competing against each other for grant dollars. This meant that a small local historical society might have its application weighed against a larger organization, like the Battleship New Jersey or Historic Morven. Having all smaller groups compete against like organizations in just their own county gives them an advantage over the statewide process. And since the county cultural & historic commissions are familiar with their own local groups, they can make grant awards based on a better knowledge of the groups and their efforts.

A second change in the grant process is that the grant year will be the same as the calendar year. This means that, although the grant funding is part of the Fiscal Year 2017 budget, the grant year for the organization receiving the grant will be the calendar year 2017. This is also an advantage. When the grant year ran on the fiscal year, groups had until June 30th of the following year to complete their grant project. Although the year began on July 1st, groups often didn't receive the actual funding until November. For those organizations that could not begin their projects without the grant funding in hand, it meant that they only had six or seven months to complete the grant instead of the full year. By switching to the calendar year, the organizations will receive their funding late in the current year, but have the entire following year to fulfill the grant.

The changes that are taking place are meant to offer better support to small, local history organizations. In return, the NJHC will be looking to those organizations to become more of an advocate for New Jersey history, particularly by becoming an integral part of their communities. To take a look at the new NJHC guidelines and their new priorities, you can visit their website http://www.nj.gov/state/historical/index.html

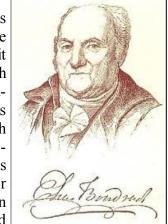
NOW IS THE TIME TO SUBMIT YOUR SOCIETY'S PUBLICATIONS TO THE LEAGUE'S PUBLICATION AWARD COMPETITION. SEE P. 15 FOR ALL OF THE DETAILS. ALL SUBMISSIONS MUST BE PUBLISHED BY A MEMBER ORGANIZATION AND NOT BY AN INDIVIDUAL.

"Spies, Lies, and Patriots of Elizabeth, NJ during the Revolutionary War"

By Damien Cregeau, M.A., History

This program is hosted by the Westfield Historical Society but will be held at the Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown/Old First Historic Trust. There will be an optional tour of the campus, which will include the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth, following the presentation.

The City of Elizabeth, New Jersey possesses a rich history of several participants involved in General George Washington's desire for accurate intelligence on the British in both New Jersey and New York City. In talking about spies, lies and alibis, it is rather ironic that the city has two locally famous patriots both named Elias, though neither needed an alias in their work as intelligence agents. Colonel, and later, Brigadier General Elias Dayton (below) grew up in Elizabeth and among other achievements was able to supplement the intelligence gathered by the Culper Ring about the British in New York City. This underappreciated patriot leader is buried in the First Presbyterian Churchyard in Elizabeth. Likewise, Elias Boudinot (right), who was known as a lawyer and statesman from Elizabeth, was also involved in intelligence gathering for General Washington in both Philadelphia and the Elizabeth area. While he is buried in Burlington, NJ, his stately Boxwood Hall remains as a testament to his wealth and influence.



Furthermore, Elizabeth was also one chapter in the academic training of Alexander Hamilton, one of Washington's best and favorite aides, and who therefore was intimately involved in Washington's intelligence correspondence.

Historian Damien Cregeau will provide a one-hour presentation that will explore the important contributions of Dayton, Boudinot, and Hamilton to Washington's legacy as spymaster of the Revolutionary War. It will also look at how those three contributed to Washington's disinformation strategy as one of several of his intelligence tactics, in this case in regard to where and how many Continental Army troops were positioned around New York City at various times, especially in 1781 on their way south for what was to become the Yorktown campaign.

If you would like to attend kindly RSVP to the Westfield Historical Society at 908-654-1794 or by email at westfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Presentation to be held on **Friday, February 19th** starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Snyder Academy of Elizabethtown/Old First Historic Trust First Presbyterian Church, 42 Broad Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. Parking is available at the J. Christian Bollwage parking garage which is next to the church parking lot.

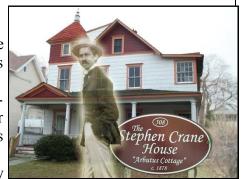
www.elizabethparking.org/pub/iamap/default. J. Christian Bollwage Parking Garage Lot #1, Lot #2 and Lot #6 daily rates are \$2.00 first hour, \$2.00 second hour/\$1.00 each additional hour.

STEPHEN CRANE HOUSE ON NATIONAL REGISTER

The Asbury Park Historical Society was recently notified by the state Office of Historic Preservation that the historic Stephen Crane House has been officially added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register is the nation's official list of cultural resources significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and other similar categories. The Stephen Crane House, at 508 Fourth Avenue, was placed on the State Register of Historic Places on February 16, 2015.

The historical society expects to take ownership of the house in the very near future



Historical Magazine Celebrates 100th Anniversary By Patricia A. Martinelli, M.A.

In January 1916, the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society produced the first issue of *The Vineland Historical Magazine*, a quarterly publication dedicated to preserving the rich heritage of South Jersey. Although it has undergone a number of changes since the first issue appeared, in 2016 the magazine will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a retrospective of stories that appeared in some of the earlier editions.

The magazine was the brainchild of Frank DeWette Andrews (1847-1937), a Connecticut native who moved with his family to Vineland in 1869. An avid collector with a broad range of interests, he served the society as secretary-treasurer for more than half of his life and editor-in-chief of the magazine for the first two decades of publication.

Mr. Andrews (pictured below) joined the Vineland organization as a trustee in 1888 and devoted his life to organizing and cataloguing the collections that had been donated since the organization was founded in 1864. In addition to artwork, glassware, photographs, and other materials given by area residents, he also organized the family artifacts donated in memory of Charles K. Landis (1833-1900), Vineland's founder and an active member of the society.

Among the more unusual items that were acquired by the society during Mr. Andrews' tenure was



a collection of Babylonian cuneiform tablets dating back approximately 4,000 years and Native American skulls belonging to members of the Nez Perce tribe. In 2014, the skulls were returned to the tribe and have since been properly buried in Montana.

The magazine was created to share some of these finds with both society members and the general public. Over the years, the publication also has included burial records from cemeteries throughout the region, personal correspondence and photographs of early settlers and events, and family genealogies.

Today, the annual magazine continues to reflect Mr. Andrews' standards by documenting special events and daily life in Vineland and South Jersey. A database is currently being created to access articles in back issues, which the society has available for sale.

◆ The Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society is the oldest local historical society in New Jersey, headquartered in the oldest purpose-built museum in the state. The museum is open for public tours on Saturdays; there is a \$1 per person charge for visitors over 12 years of age.

www.vinelandhistory1864.org; vinelandhistory@gmail.com

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIGITIZING COLLECTION

The Jefferson Township Historical Society is embarking on an important project and would like to include community members. The historical society is in the process of digitizing all of its historical documents and records. The ultimate goal of this project is to produce a database for public use. If you are interested in assisting the society's archivist, please contact the president, Christine Williams, at 973-697-0258 or president@jthistoricalsociety.org or visit the society's website at www.ithistoricalsociety.org.

Funds Available for Students to Visit Lambert Castle Museum

Editor's note: We have included this article to share an idea by which other small museums might increase student visitation.

Out-of-the-classroom enrichment activities are such an important part of a child's education. With many of the school districts in our area experiencing funding constraints, these extra trips and programs are very often removed from the budget. However, the Passaic County Historical Society, in partnership with the Fred J. Brotherton Charitable Foundation, has created a school trip grant program, beginning in September 2015, that was designed to assist schools by supplementing or fully funding school trips to Lambert Castle museum.

The Passaic County Historical Society would like to announce a new opportunity for local schools to visit Lambert Castle. Thanks to generous funding provided



by the Fred J. Brotherton Charitable Foundation, the society has created a school trip grant program. This program will allow schools to be reimbursed for the **cost of transportation and admission** to Lambert Castle museum for their students. All schools are eligible and funds will be dispersed on a first-come basis. For more information about the program and how to apply, visit our website at www.lambertcastle.org/school-trip-grant-program.html.

The Passaic County Historical Society, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was founded to cultivate interest among individuals and the community-at-large in the rich history of Passaic County. To this end, our museum in Lambert Castle showcases examples of the county's cultural and artistic diversity, as well as examples of the county's natural, civil, military, and ecclesiastical history. The society also maintains a library and archive, which houses manuscripts, books, and photographs of historical and genealogical interest.

For more information on special events, visit the Passaic County Historical Society's website at <u>lambertcastle.org</u> or call 973-247-0085.

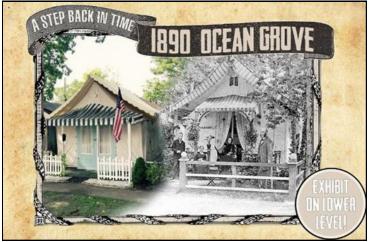
Curiosities of Ocean Grove: The Video Series and the new exhibit, "Summer of 1890"

The Historical Society of Ocean Grove has put together a short "news update" video for viewers of

"Curiosities of Ocean Grove." The society introduced a brand new museum exhibit on the "Summer of 1890," curated by Dell O'Hara. Some of you already know Dell from her FANTASTIC women's history walking tours of Ocean Grove (which we're thrilled to say keep selling out and we've started adding more!)

Take a moment to watch the video https://curiositiesog.wordpress.com/2015/10/07/new-video-curiosities-of-ocean-grove-news-october-2015/

. If you wish to see this exhibit, which is on the lower level of the museum at 50 Pitman Avenue, please call 732-774-1869.



Hannah Caldwell

During the American Revolution, the Rev. James Caldwell, pastor of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown, served as Chaplain of the 3rd NJ Regiment. Caldwell—supported by his wife Hannah—spoke out against British policies. Thus, he became a preacher for independence, angering the British, who placed a price on his head. The church and parsonage in Elizabethtown were burned by the British in January 1780, forcing the Caldwells and their nine children to move to the parsonage in neighboring Connecticut Farms (now the Township of Union in Union County). An important battle of the Revolution took place on June 7, 1780, in Connecticut Farms.

Lt. Gen. Wilhelm von Knyphausen ordered the destruction of George Washington's camp at Morristown. His spies had informed him that Washington's soldiers, camped at Jockey Hollow, were unhappy with their poor living conditions and lack of pay. Many officers resigned their commissions and returned home. On December 2, 1779, over 10,000 troops had been in camp; by June 1780, only 4,000 remained.

Connecticut Farms was on the route to Morristown. The Patriots were determined to prevent the enemy from reaching its objective. Brig. Gen. William Maxwell ordered his 1,500 Continental troops and militia to hide in the woods and fire at the enemy of about 5,000 men. They fought from 8 until 11:30 a.m. At about 2:30 p.m. a cannon duel took place between Col. Elias Dayton's men at the Rahway River Bridge (which separates Connecticut Farms from Springfield) and British cannon. British forces failed to cross the Rahway River and thus, their attempt to reach and destroy Washington's camp failed. On June 8, local farmers and militia found 47 enemy dead and buried them in a common grave in the Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

When the alarm guns had sounded on June 7, Caldwell told Hannah to leave the parsonage with the children and accompany him to safety in Springfield. She replied that they must trust Providence and that she wouldn't be harmed. After James left, Hannah went to the back bedroom—thought to be safest, since it had only one window. With her were Catherine Benward, a nurse who assisted in caring for Maria, the Caldwells' 8-month-old daughter; Abigail Lennington, a young housekeeper; and Elias, the Caldwell's 4-year-old son. According to testimony, a soldier wearing a red coat left the road and crossed the property to reach the house. Elias had been peeking out the window at the British passing by. Abigail had been told to



keep the boy away from the window, but she couldn't. So Hannah moved to pull him to safety at the moment the soldier approached and fired. Seconds later, Hannah lay dead.

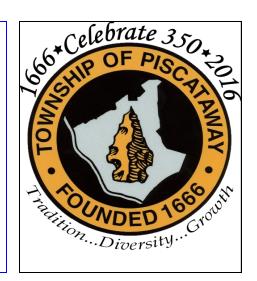
The Rev. Caldwell returned to take his wife's body to the Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church graveyard for burial and to give the eulogy at her funeral. Outraged by Hannah's murder, he spread the word of the event on horseback and from his pulpit. The reaction to his news was a call to arms throughout the countryside. Hannah's tragic death increased the resolve of the colonists to continue their fight for independence.

At the Battle of Springfield on June 23, the British made another attempt to reach Washington at Morristown. Many Patriots fought at Springfield to avenge Hannah's death. At one point, the Continental soldiers and militia ran out of paper wadding for their muskets, so Caldwell rode to the Springfield Presbyterian Church and gathered up as many Watts' hymnals as he could; pages from the hymnals were then used as wadding. The British retreated, but not before torching Springfield as they had done to Connecticut Farms just two weeks before.

PISCATAWAY'S 350th ANNIVERSARY

Throughout 2016, the township of Piscataway will celebrate its 350th year. Events will lead to an awareness and appreciation by all about the rich, 350-year growth of the town.

To learn more about the upcoming events, to volunteer, or to participate, please contact the 350th Executive Committee at 350@piscatawaynj.org or 732-562-2301.



THE BEGINNINGS OF PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP

Founded in 1666, Piscataway Township is the fifth oldest town in New Jersey and among the fifty oldest towns in our nation. The New Market area was the colonial settlement of "Quibbletown" which consisted of a grist mill, a tavern, an inn, a stage depot, and about a dozen homes.

The name *Piscataway* was given to the area by the earliest pioneers from Piscataqua, New Hampshire. The meaning of the name is not certain. It is thought the name was derived from the Lenape language and is interpreted to mean "great deer river" or "dark" referring possibly to the color of the soil.

Since the southern bank of the Raritan River contained no settlements, Piscataway also included the future Middlesex County across the Raritan as well as most of Somerset County. In 1685, Piscataway itself and the out plantations were reported to be 40,000 acres, which is about 66 square miles. In 1693, it extended as far as Somerville and Princeton, an area of some 300 square miles.

The Native Americans who inhabited the area numbered only a few thousand. They belonged to the Lenape, a tribe of the Algonquian group, who lived along the Middle Atlantic and were far less hostile to the whites than the warlike Iroquois of upper New York. Their settlements were semi-permanent, and while they cultivated some plants such as corn, pumpkins, beans, and tobacco, they lived chiefly by hunting and fishing. In spring they migrated to the seashore where the summer was spent gathering oysters, clams, mussels, fish, and other seafood,

which were smoked and carried back inland.

On February 8, 1777 a running battle took place between approximately 2,000 British and Hessian troops under the command of British General Charles Lord Cornwallis and the local patriot militia led by Colonel Charles Scott and a separate militia commanded by Brigadier General Nathaniel Warner.

In 1997 the New Jersey and National Register of Historic Places approved the ROAD UP RARITAN HISTORIC DISTRICT. Nine of the fourteen existing historic homes in the River Road area, including the oldest home (circa 1720) in the county, constitute the township's first designated historic district. Other areas of the township are under consideration for historic status.



According to the 2010 census, the township population lists 56,044 residents living in the 19-square-mile township. To learn about upcoming events, please visit

www.piscatawaynj.org/admin dept/350th-anniversary

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



Presenting a Brand New Look for the League's Website!

The League's website, www.lhsnj.org, now has a brand, new look! Thanks to the hard work of Gordon Bond, of Gordon Bond Designs, the site features our new logo, many more photographs, and easy-to-navigate links to member organizations, meetings, newsletters, and our Facebook page.

Now you may click on a link to the website of each of our member organizations and go directly to that site. There is also a link to each society's email address.

And now your membership renewal can be paid online with a credit card, via PayPal. Of course, you may still mail in your dues with a check and the renewal form, as always, if you wish.

We ask you to please check the links to your organization. If you discover that a link is incorrect, please contact Linda Barth (908-240-0488 or barthlinda123@aol.com). She will pass the information on to our webmaster, Laura Poll, and Laura will work to correct the problem.





Hunterdon County's Annual Essay Contest Entries: "Most Historic Place in My Town" Due Friday, April 8, 2016

Invitations are out for the annual Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission student essay competition on The Most Historic Place in My Town, which can be a house, farm, barn, public building, cemetery, or more imaginative subject. The top winner is named Junior Historian of Hunterdon County and awarded \$100. For more than 20 years, this countywide annual contest has served to raise community awareness of local historic sites, and to satisfy State Core Curriculum Standards for teaching local history.

Awards will be presented by Commission Chair Lora Jones and Honorary County Historian Stephanie Stevens at the May 17, 2016 meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Other awards include a \$50 second prize, \$25 awards to first-place winners from each participating school, \$10 awards for all school second-place winners, and honorable mention for other notable essays. Winning essays are chosen by a committee of retired teachers.

Competition is open to all third- or fourth-grade students in Hunterdon County public, private, parochial, or homeschools. The entrant's grade level is determined by which grade students study state and local history in their particular school. Parents of students interested in competing should inquire at their school to determine if it is participating. Students who attend participating schools must submit their essays through their schools. Students who are homeschooled or attend a school not participating in the contest may submit entries directly to the Commission.

Essays must be neatly printed or typed on plain 8½-inch by 11-inch paper. Report covers may be used, but looseleaf ring binders will not be accepted. Compositions of any length should describe what the student believes is the most historic site in his or her own community. Source citations are required.

The deadline for submitting essays to the Commission is 4 p.m. on Friday, April 8, although they may be submitted at any time prior to that date. Teachers must include a typewritten, alphabetized list of participating students with the school's and the teacher's name and room number, if applicable. Teachers in Hunterdon who wish to receive contest materials should contact the Commission at 908-788-1490.

Entries may be mailed to: Hunterdon County Cultural & Heritage Commission, P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900 or hand delivered to the Commission Office at 314 State Route 12, Building #1, Route 12 County Complex, Raritan Township. Regulations for the contest may also be found at the Commission's website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/depts/c&h/c&h.htm.

The Hunterdon County Cultural and Heritage Commission develops programs to promote interest and participation in and understanding of local arts and culture, historic events/programs and to support the goals of the community and state. Contact us: P.O. Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900; 908-788-1490; cultural@co.hunterdon.nj.us. Offices: Route 12 County Complex, Building #1, Suite 140, Flemington, NJ.

Saturday, March 19 - Women Justices of the United States Supreme Court

As late as 1872, women were still denied the right to practice law in the United States. By 1884 they were given part-time, token judgeships, usually at the municipal level. It took another 97 years for the first appointment of a woman to the United States Supreme Court. That was a total of 191 years after the founding of the Supreme Court itself!

Four magnificent women have achieved the position of Supreme Court Justice to date. Join Trish Chambers Productions and the Meadows Foundation in a fascinating introduction to these accomplished jurists. Meet Sandra Day O'Connor, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor, and Elena Kagan. Learn how their unique personalities and determination enabled them to break the glass ceiling to take their place in

history, as they vote to clarify the intentions of the founding fathers regarding the United States Constitution.

Event to be held March 19, 2016 from 2-4 p.m. at the Van Liew-Suydam House, 280 South Middlebush Road, Somerset. Tickets are \$10. For more information or to reserve a seat, please contact Chris Retz at Chrisflp@aol.com.

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:

<u>Your Mission Statement, Vision Statement, and Developing Your Long-Range Plan</u> 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.

<u>Preparing a Good Budget, Filling Out Your Financial Reports</u> 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 following criteria will be used to judge the various categories of materials submitted by our member societies for the Hale Publication Awards for 2015.

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.

Please send your submissions by March 1, 2016 in one or two categories to J.B. Vogt, 6 Forty Oaks Road, White House Station, NJ 08889. If you have questions, please contact her at 908-534-4600 or jnvgt6@gmail.com before February 15, 2016.



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NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

New Book about Cumberland County's Historic Architecture

By Joan Berkey

Greenwich, New Jersey—The Cumberland County Historical Society has published Early Wood Architecture of Cumberland County, New Jersey.

Written by architectural historian Joan Berkey, the heavily illustrated book examines the forces that shaped the earliest wooden buildings erected in Cumberland County. Dating as early as the late 1600s, these heavy timber frame (also known as post and beam) structures are strikingly similar to those built by the Pilgrims in Massachusetts. Years of research and examination of more than 40 extant buildings reveal important differences, however, and suggest a direct-from-England influence as well.

While the book focuses on those structures built before 1750, it also includes others dated as late as ca. 1840 to demonstrate how timber framing evolved over a century and a half.

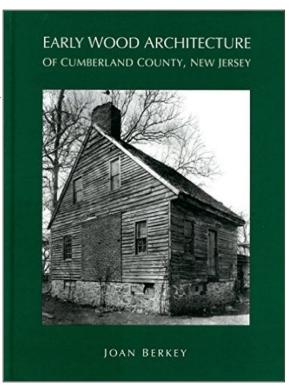
Berkey also encountered several log and Dutch-American frame buildings during her research and devotes a chapter to each in the 208-page volume. More than 230 photographs (many in color), drawings, and maps enrich the text.

Berkey spent more than five years conducting the research leading up to the book. All phases of the project were assisted by grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission of the New Jersey Department of State.

"The Cumberland County Historical Society is extremely proud to have sponsored this first in-depth study of the county's earliest

wood buildings," Linda Hruza-Jones, president of the society's board, commented. "Berkey's work presents an exceptional portrait of our architectural and cultural heritage."

Copies can be purchased for \$39.99 at the historical society's Warren and Reba Lummis Genealogical and Historical Library at 981 Ye Greate Street in Greenwich. The library is open on Wednesdays from 9 until 4, and on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 1 until 4. Mail orders are fulfilled by the author: send your mailing information with a check or money order for \$44.74 (cost of the book at 39.99 plus \$4.75 postage and packaging) to Joan Berkey, 707 N. Delsea Drive, Cape May Court House, New Jersey 08210. The book can also be purchased on Amazon.com. Contact: Joan Berkey/joan123b@aol.com/609-861-2208; Linda Jones/lhruzajones@comcast.net/856-690-1018.



TRENT HOUSE SPONSORS LECTURE SERIES

This spring, the Trent House will sponsor a series of history-related lectures on Saturday afternoons at 1:00 p.m. Admission is \$10 and complimentary light refreshments will be served.

February 13—The Story of Shrewsbury, by Rick Geffken

March 26—"From Point Breeze to the Trent House: Bonaparte's Paintings" by Laura Poll

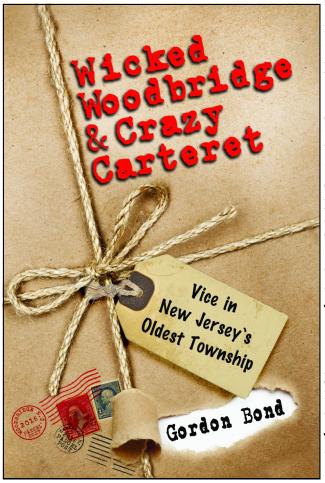
<u>April 16</u>—"Proud Heritage: African American History in the Sourlands and Hopewell Valley" by Beverly Mills and Elaine Buck

May 14—"John Hart: Portrait of a Patriot" by John Hart

Located at 15 Market Street in Trenton, adjacent to the Hughes Justice Complex. Ample free parking. For more information and driving directions, visit www.williamtrenthouse.org or call 609-989-3027.

Wicked Woodbridge & Crazy Carteret By Gordon Bond

As the state's oldest township, Woodbridge, New Jersey, is bound to have more than a few proverbial skeletons rattling around its collective closet! Historian and author Gordon Bond's latest book, *Wicked Woodbridge & Crazy Carteret*, is an unflinching romp through some of that less-respectable history. Drugs, prostitution, bootlegging, riots, swindles, counterfeiting, and even witchcraft—all have variously appeared on the otherwise pleasant streets of Woodbridge and neighboring Carteret (the last area to split off from



Woodbridge proper in 1906). Bond places these local stories firmly within the broader contexts of how the shifting social attitudes and moral standards of the world-at-large played out in our backyards.

"Gordon Bond is an author with a remarkable sense of curiosity that is on full display in his new book, *Wicked Woodbridge & Crazy Carteret*. Far from being another pedestrian history, the book explores many of the lesser known—and less respectable—facets of the Woodbridge and Carteret story. The table of contents gives a sense of the book's unusual topics—prostitution, drugs, bootlegging, witchcraft, riots, counterfeiting, and swindles—all set against the background of Woodbridge and Carteret Bond is an unstoppable explainer, and the reader will find *Wicked Woodbridge & Crazy Carteret* a rollicking and enlightening experience." - Marc Mappen, New Jersey history author and co-editor of the award-winning *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*

Gordon Bond is an independent historian, author, and lecturer. He is the founder and ePublisher of www.GardenStateLegacy.com, a free online quarterly magazine dedicated to New Jersey history. He is the author of James Parker: A Printer on the Eve of Revolution, North Jersey Legacies, and Hidden History of South Jersey. In addition to writing many articles and reviews for Garden State Legacy, he is currently completing a book about the 1951 Woodbridge train wreck. He is available for readings.

signings, and interviews [gordon@gardenstatelegacy.com].

Format: 6" x 9" x .6" perfect-bound paperback on acid-free natural paper, printed in the USA

Pages: 228, including Endorsements, Introduction, Text, About the Author, Index

ISBN 10: 1-939995-12-4 — **ISBN 13**: 978-1-939995-12-4 — **Price**: \$19.95 (Bulk order rates are available

upon request)

The Story of Shrewsbury, Revisited, 1965-2015 by Richard L. Kraybill and the Shrewsbury Tercentenary Committee; updated by Rick Geffken and Mayor Don Burden

Shrewsbury, New Jersey, November 1, 2015 – *The Story of Shrewsbury Revisited*, 1965-2015 (ISBN 978-1-5136-0351-3), by Rick Geffken and Don Burden, and published by the Shrewsbury Historical Society, is now available to the general public. This new book includes profiles of some of Shrewsbury's most illustri-

ous citizens, and their impact beyond Monmouth County, New Jersey. Biographies of more than thirty prominent Shrewsbury residents—attorneys, historians, writers, entrepreneurs, artists, politicians, and medical innovators—reveal a breadth of accomplishment and diversity.

Historian Rick Geffken and Shrewsbury Mayor Don Burden note recent changes to the Borough's look and feel—new businesses, new homes, and open spaces. Pictures of Shrewsbury's people and local vistas appear throughout. A former story of Shrewsbury, long out of print, is included in its entirety. Geffken and Burden have updated the earlier work with the latest research into the fascinating history of the second oldest town in Monmouth County, established in 1665.

Readers will be fascinated to learn intriguing, oftenignored historical information such as the primary and very early role of the Shrewsbury Friends - the Quakers – in the abolition of slavery in the United States. The fascinating life of the Reverend Samuel Cooke is described in detail – how he built the famous Christ Church Episcopal at the Four Corners prior to the Revolutionary War; and was later stripped of all his real estate and personal posses-

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sions because of his loyalty to the British Crown. The Allen House and the Wardell Estate - the oldest, still extant buildings in town – are recalled for their crucial importance in colonial times.

The Story of Shrewsbury, Revisited, 1965-2015 recognizes the uniqueness of the Shrewsbury community beyond its inherent natural beauty. It documents how the selfless spirit of Shrewsbury people continues as volunteer citizens donate their time and energy to the many organizations which make Shrewsbury a special place to live and work. Geffken and Burden outline a vision of continuity and balance for the future of this unique small town.

This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Monmouth County and Shrewsbury's place as one of the most important colonial settlements. Hard-cover versions are available from the Shrewsbury Historical Society for \$30; soft-cover versions are \$20. Shipping and handling for either is an additional \$5.

The Story of Shrewsbury, Revisited, 1965-2015 invites residents and other readers to preserve and protect Shrewsbury's history, and to nurture this special place for future generations.

- Famous Daughters & Sons of Shrewsbury
- Fifty Years of Change
- Shrewsbury, It Takes a Village
- Shrewsbury Today and Tomorrow
- ◆ Reprint of The Story of Shrewsbury, 1664 1964
- New Research on 350 years of Shrewsbury history

To order, send a check to: **Shrewsbury Historical Society, 419 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury NJ 07702-0333. Questions? Call 732-530-7974.** Soft cover version: \$20 + \$5 s/h. Hard cover: \$30 + \$5 shipping and handling.

The League of Historical Societies Spring Meeting

Hosted by Naval Air Station Wildwood and Wildwood Historical Society
Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce Building, 3306 Pacific Avenue, Wildwood, NJ 08260
Saturday, April 9, 2016 — 609-827-3567

AGENDA

- 9:00 Registration and continental breakfast
- 9:30 Welcome and Introductions E. Marie Hayes, Cape May County Freeholder
- 9:45 League Business Meeting
- 10:30 Presentation from Wildwood Historical Society
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 Presentation from Naval Air Station Wildwood
- 11:45 Lunch in same location
- 12:45 4:00 LOCAL TOURS:

George Boyer Museum (Tram car will transport to and from meeting location to GBM) Naval Air Station Wildwood

*Map and directions for these locations as well as other points of interest will be provided

SUGGESTED HOTELS

Bolero Resort, 3320 Pacific Ave, Wildwood 609-522-6929 <u>www.boleroresort.com</u> (2 blocks to meeting) Camelot Motel, 103 Howard St, Cape May 609-884-1500, <u>www.capemaycamelot.com</u>

Victorian Motel, 223 Congress Place, Cape May 609-884-7044, <u>www.victorianmotelnj.com</u> (both 15 minutes from meeting)

If you'd like to splurge on a Cape May Bed & Breakfast, you can find listings on www.capemay.com, or a luxury hotel, www.iconaresortdiamondbeach.com

QUESTIONS? For more information, feel free to email us at lhs.spring@gmail.com Questions on the morning of April 9th: 609-827-3567(Karen)

<u>&</u>	
You may register online usure to fill out all of you If you are mailing you	ORMATION: Please be sure to register by 4/1/2016 using the following link. You can use PayPal as a payment option. Please be r information. http://www.usnasw.org/?product=historical-society-registration r information, please make your check for \$25 payable to NAS Wildwood and d, ATTN: League Meeting, 500 Forrestal Road, Rio Grande, NJ 08242
Name	
Email	
Address	
City State/Zip	Phone
Affiliation	
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Saturday, April 9, 2016 — 609-827-3567

Directions to Greater Wildwood Chamber of Commerce Building:

From the northeast: Take the Garden State Parkway south to exit 4B, Wildwood. Follow over bridge into Wildwood. Turn left on New Jersey Ave (4th traffic light). Follow New Jersey Ave 15 blocks (.65 miles) to Wildwood Ave (Wildwood Bowl and Alfe's Restaurant on right). Turn right on Wildwood Avenue. Parking lot is on right almost to the corner behind the Chamber building. Walk around corner to front of building to Chamber entrance.

From the northwest: Take Rte 206 to Hammonton, where 206 becomes Rte. 54. Follow Rte. 54 for 3 miles to the entrance to Atlantic City Expressway on the right. Follow the expressway to the Garden State Parkway South. Follow directions above.

From Camden area and west: Take Rte, 55 to the end. Rte. 55 becomes Rte. 47. Follow Rte. 47 to Rte. 347, which comes back to Rte. 47. Follow Rte. 47 to Court House–South Dennis Rd on the left, 2nd traffic light after the Wawa. Southville Corner Restaurant is on the corner. Follow Court House–South Dennis Road for 6 miles, past shopping centers and hospital to the entrance to Garden State Parkway South on the right. Follow directions above.

Suggested hotels:

Bolero Resort, 3320 Pacific Ave, Wildwood (609)522-6929 <u>www.boleroresort.com</u> (2 blocks to meeting)

Camelot Motel, 103 Howard St, Cape May (609)884-1500,
www.capemaycamelot.com
Victorian Motel, 223 Congress Place, Cape May (609)884-7044,
www.victorianmotelnj.com

(both 15 minutes from meeting)

If you'd like to splurge on a Cape May Bed & Breakfast, you can find listings on www.capemay.com,

or a luxury hotel, www.iconaresortdiamondbeach.com