



# LEAGUE NEWS

The Newsletter of the  
League of Historical Societies of New Jersey

Vol. 49 No. 1 [www.lhsnj.org](http://www.lhsnj.org) January 2024

**Mission Statement:** To promote preservation of the historical heritage of New Jersey by stimulating among member organizations the development of programs, projects, and publications that celebrate this heritage.

## League Statement of Inclusion

The League of Historical Societies welcomes all organizations and individuals with an interest in New Jersey's state and local history. Our members include historical societies, historic preservation organizations, libraries, state and local historic sites, friends of parks and historic sites, county cultural and heritage commissions, county parks, state parks, national heritage areas, archival and genealogical groups, a large variety of museums, railroad groups, DAR chapters, lighthouse societies, history roundtables, and musical organizations, as well as interested individuals. Even if your organization does not fit one of these categories, you are welcome to join us.

**Saturday, April 13, 2024**

**Spring Meeting**

**Naval Air Station Wildwood,  
Rio Grande, Cape May County**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Registration for and directions**

## State Library Launches Digital Video Project with Local Historical Societies

Here at the New Jersey State Library, we field a variety of questions, many of which we have to refer to local libraries or historical societies, the gatekeepers to many municipal and local records of interest to genealogists and researchers. In a vast majority of these cases, we are sending patrons to these organizations on a hope that they can help. Reflecting on this, we said, "There has to be a better way." It is out of this conversation that the idea for the "Get to Know Your Local Historical Society" video project was born.

New Jersey has over 300 historical societies and related organizations; many of these groups have wonderful collections that are unknown to librarians and researchers. Yet, many of these societies are understaffed, overworked, and severely underbudgeted, making access to their collections a daily challenge. Additionally, it can be difficult to maintain a robust and up-to-date web presence, which is critical for the survival of any information-based organization today. Reaching people where they are in a format that is easily digestible is the new normal, but can require considerable time and effort.

That's where we felt the NJ State Library could be of assistance. We have a large and growing genealogy collection, yet are vastly unaware of what is available around the state. What better way to strengthen our relationships with these historical societies and the rich local history throughout New Jersey than by creating a central repository to which we can point researchers and librarians. However, we felt a simple database of information would not be enough; too

(continued on page 9)

## SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

**April 13, 2024—Naval Air Station Wildwood, Rio Grande, Cape May County**

**June 15, 2024—Historical Association of Woodbridge, Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County**

**November 9, 2024—American Labor Museum/Botto House, Haledon, Passaic County**

**Spring 2025—The Bayshore Center at Bivalve, Port Norris, Cumberland County**

**June 28, 2025—Tewksbury Historical Society, Oldwick, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County**

**November 8, 2025—Historical Society of Chatham Township, Chatham Township, Morris County**

**Spring 2026—**

**Summer 2026—Proprietary House, Perth Amboy, Middlesex County**

**Fall 2026—**

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](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com), and she will put you in touch with

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

President (2024)

Brian Armstrong  
South River Historical and Preservation Society

First Vice President (2024)

Bruce Tell  
Canal Society of New Jersey

Vice President, Northern (2024)

Jane McNeill  
Victorian Society

Vice President, Central (2024)

Mary Swarbrick  
Fellowship for Metlar House

Vice President, Southern (2024)

Timothy Hart  
Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

Secretary (2024)

Hannah Kerwin  
Somerset County Library System

Treasurer (2024)

Pary Tell  
Lighthouse Keepers of New Jersey

Trustee, Northern (2026)

Michelle Munn  
Mount Tabor Historical Society

Trustee, Northern (2024)

Eve Morawski  
Durand-Hedden House & Garden

Trustee, Central (2024)

Jeffrey McVey  
Lambertville Historical Society

Trustee, Central (2026)

Donald Peck  
Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Trustee, Southern (2026)

R. Joseph Latshaw III  
Ocean County Historical Society

Trustee, Southern (2024)

Ralph Cooper  
Historical Preservation Society of

Upper Township

Trustee-at-Large (2024)

Patricia Wells  
Township of Chatham Historical Society

Trustee-at-Large (2026)

Donald Katz, Esq.  
Proprietary House Association

Historian (2024)

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, 908-240-0488;  
[barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com)

Membership Chairman

Jennifer Coultas  
Boonton Historical Society

Publications Awards Committee

Chairman  
J. B. Vogt  
Fellowship for Metlar House

Trustees Emeriti

Bernard Bush  
Kate Malcolm

**In this issue:**

Spotlight on Our Members, p. 3-5  
Update on the Clara Barton School house restoration, p. 5  
PBS presents "Revolution Road Trips" in New Jersey, p. 6-7  
Morven receives grant, p. 8  
New signage in Lambertville, p. 8-9  
National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, p. 9-10  
2nd Middlebrook Symposium, p. 10  
Naval Air Station Wildwood, p. 11  
New members; Job Marketplace, p. 12  
Business members, p. 13  
Workshops, p. 14  
Hale Publication Awards, p. 15  
New Jersey Bookshelf, p. 16-18  
Wildwood meeting, p. 19-20

**THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Thirty years ago, I worked for a technology firm that supported the mortgage banking industry. This is where I learned a life lesson about how the life of a loan applies to most human endeavors.

In mortgage banking, you have the glamorous loan originator and then the not so glamorous servicer of the 15-to-30-year loan. Everything we do in life has an originator and a servicer.

The history field is a perfect fit for this model. As an example, communities have the originator who built the house or took the photo and then the building owner or historic society that maintains them and ensures their survival. There is the originator who established a historical society and those that keep it going through volunteerism and financial resources. Although the servicer is the current caretaker, they must always respect the commitment and vision that brought the organization into being.

To create something from nothing is to be respected, but without the current interest and support, the creation will cease to exist. This is why the people who keep an organization going through their physical or financial support are so important. These new people also bring energy and new ideas to the organization, which is like the paid loan interest applied to a mortgage banker's balance statement.

Sometimes organizations struggle due to clashes between originators and servicers. The lesson is the same one a banker would tell you. If the loan is to be successful, its originators and its servicers must cooperate and perform their functions correctly and with care. Compromise and mutual respect must be found to ensure the survival and success of the organization.

So please take a look at your organization and make sure you have honored your originators and cherish your current servicers.

Brian Armstrong

**DEADLINE:** Submissions for the April issue of *League News* must be on the editor's desk no later than March 15, 2024. Please send all items to: Linda Barth, 214 North Bridge Street, Somerville, New Jersey 08876; [barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto: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.**



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

### The Greater Cape May Historical Society History of the Memucan Hughes Colonial House, Cape May City, Cape May County

Nestled on a small plot of city land between City Hall and the Cape May City's brand-new firehouse sits a modest colonial residence, thought to be one of the oldest houses on Cape Island. It has remained steadfast, having been moved three times and surviving the test of time. The Colonial House is currently the headquarters of the Greater Cape May Historical Society and Museum. The society was formed to save the house from demolition by the city for parking. It is referred to as the Memucan (Me-Myoo-can) Hughes House, after perhaps its original owner, a patriot of the Revolutionary War era.



The Colonial House, also known as the Memucan Hughes House

The house is an example of Vernacular Architecture. This method of building was based on locality, accessible construction materials, and regional traditions. It is assumed the building was constructed sometime between 1730 and 1760. However, experts have been unable to accurately date the Colonial House structure, in part because the building's interior has been modified several times since the beginning of the 19th century. Through the Victorian Era, rafters were installed as matching pairs, featuring small Roman numerals chiseled into the wood, typical for first and second period houses. All evidence points to the Memucan Hughes House being a first or second period building, structurally consistent with the two other known colonial houses and the only one of its kind located on Cape Island. It is a physical representation of Cape May's history—one that has been and should continue to be treasured. It is a relic of the past, insulated by examples of various eras of

Cape May's development.

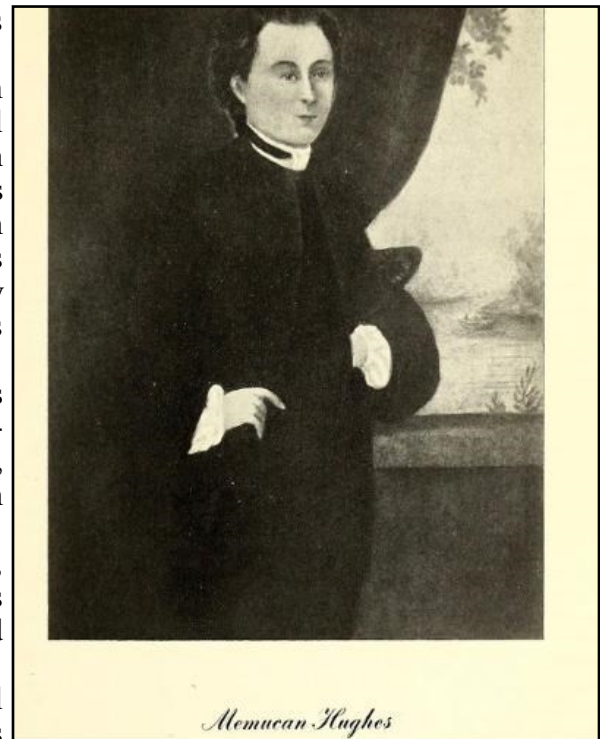
Some of exterior elements have contributed to the study of the building's age. The soffit boards at the Colonial House are noticeably wider than the standard 12" soffits of most Cape May houses built during the 19th century and a feature only seen on houses constructed before 1800. On all four walls of the structure, the clapboard siding appears to be original to the house. The siding's ship-lapped profile is atypical compared to squared-edge boards seen on Cape May houses before the Revolution. Moreover, the siding material is inconsistent with the typical white cedar wood siding found in early Cape May houses, perhaps cypress from the Carolinas. More research would yield knowledge as to whether cypress was plentiful enough in rural Cape May County.

Aside from the exterior, dating the house has relied heavily on assessing the features of the building floor plan, identifying several that are considered typical of other first period (1690-1730) houses in Cape May County, namely the two-room-deep floor plan, which was uncommon in the early settlement of Cape May. In fact, the Memucan Hughes Colonial House is one of three such remaining houses throughout the entirety of Cape May County—only accompanied by the John Hand House (c.1710) here in Cape May and the Thomas Leaming House in Dennis Township (c.1704).

The Colonial House functioned as a tavern that Memucan Hughes operated until around 1800, serving whalers and other locals. Its alternate use has proven to be an important piece of the building's history, as the record of Hughes receiving his tavern license (1765) aids in establishing an approximate date of construction.

The Hughes family were among the earliest settlers of New Jersey, the first of whom with records being William Hughes and Dorothy his wife of Shadwell, Middlesex County, England, who purchased land here in 1674.

Memucan Hughes, born in 1739, was a descendant of the original whaler yeoman. The Hughes family was among the earliest settlers



of Cape May and Salem counties. His grandfather received a land grant in 1691. In 1754 at age 15, Memucan was commissioned an ensign, advancing to lieutenant in the Pennsylvania artillery. He migrated to Cape May in 1761 and married his cousin, Martha Hughes. He became a member of the Committee of Safety of Cape May and a paymaster at the onset of the war. He and his brother Ellis operated taverns in Cape May. Taverns were important to travelers for shelter and strong beverages. It took three or more days for the stagecoach to travel to Cape May from Philadelphia. Travelers brought news of the war's progress from Philadelphia and towns farther north. Ellis owned one of the first boarding houses in town and the first to advertise the benefits of vacationing on Cape Island in a Philadelphia newspaper.

In 1799, Memucan was indicted for causing a public nuisance. Evidently there was just too much merrymaking at the tavern. Memucan did find religion and invited two Methodist preachers to hold services in the tavern. In 1810, he helped to establish the Cape May Methodist Church. He donated land to the Tabernacle Methodist Church in Erma, just north of Cape May, where he is buried. Cape May County's African American experience with the Methodist Episcopal Church is part of Memucan's legacy. The Hughes family was one of the largest slave-owning families in Lower Township, but they manumitted their slaves, giving them land for a meeting house. Memucan married twice, first to Rhoda Allen in 1799. He was a citizen, soldier, patriot, and entrepreneur. In the latter part of his life, he "suffered much continued bodily affliction." Memucan died in 1812.

The Colonial House is open from June 15 to September 15, Wednesday through Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. The society is a member of the Cape May Coalition, a group of historical locations and societies in Cape May County. The society participates in the Cape May MAC (Museums+Arts+Culture) Inns of Cape May, Candlelight and Lamplighters tours during the Christmas holidays and is planning for the 250th celebration as an authentic revolutionary history site in Cape May County. For more information, visit [www.capemayhistory.org](http://www.capemayhistory.org).

### **A Short History of the Belmar Historical Society 900 E Street, Belmar, New Jersey**

The Belmar Historical Society (BHS) emerged early in 1991 as an all-volunteer group that was dedicated to the restoration of Belmar historic sites. The BHS incorporated in 2011 and is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The Borough of Belmar offered the BHS the use of the annex to the historic Union Fire House. They were scheduled to open Belmar's first museum and history room on November 4, 2012. However, nature had other plans. Along came Superstorm Sandy on October 29, 2012, and all of our plans were dashed. The building sustained 27 inches of water, and most of the furnishings and metal cabinets were lost. Thankfully, most of the historic archives were saved.

The BHS eventually had its grand opening in April, 2015. The society has grown over the years with both members and donations. The museum draws visitors who are delighted to learn about the wonderful history of Belmar and are comfortable donating Belmar memorabilia, knowing their treasures have a safe and organized home for the public to enjoy.

During the year, the BHS hosts educational programs, which are well attended. We also invite the fourth grade local elementary school students to the museum to learn about Belmar's history. In addition, we partner with the members of the Union Fire House, who open their doors to the fourth graders and give them a tour of their working firehouse along with the jail cells from the former police station in the back of the annex.

One of the most popular events is our "Show and Tell" program when we invite the public to bring their Belmar memorabilia and talk about their items. At this time, we also bring items from our archives collection

(continued on next page)





to show off. The BHS also maintains a display case at Borough Hall, where we have a rotating display that affords an opportunity to showcase our archival material.

Our volunteers are dedicated folks who delight in receiving new donations to archive. We enjoy researching our digitized newspaper collection and archive collection when we receive various inquiries. It provides a great deal of satisfaction to be able to help someone find the answers to their family history or just show them around our museum to highlight our resort town.

### Update on the Clara Barton Schoolhouse restoration

As we approached the end of 2023, the Bordentown Historical Society was pleased to report on the great progress we have made in the past year at the historic Clara Barton School! Using donations from the community and a grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust, we have been able to complete the first phase of exterior restoration to complement the new cedar shingle roof installed at cost by Trenton Roofing.

We have repaired deteriorated woodwork and peeling paint and installed barrier-free brick pathways to a new four-panel entrance door. This new wheelchair-accessible door matches the wider door that was installed in the 1920 restoration that was funded by the schoolchildren of New Jersey to save the historic building from demolition.

Now work is underway to stabilize the school's historic brickwork that was seriously damaged by a previous owner's sandblasting in 1957. Currently the bricks are being repointed and patched, and soon they will be repainted the brick red color from the 1920s. The accompanying photograph taken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1936 shows the schoolhouse during the period of restoration. Finally, we will repaint the interior of the school room in the historic 1920 colors.

Still to be undertaken will be the introduction of heat and discrete lighting to the building's interior, and a new bathroom addition. This future work will allow us to use the school house for tours by visitors in the winter months and evenings, while also making it possible to hold meetings and events in the building when a bathroom is a necessary amenity. Clara Barton sent the children outside to an outhouse, but today we need indoor plumbing! If you would like to help us finish this important project, please send your tax-deductible donation to the Bordentown Historical Society at P.O. Box 182, Bordentown, NJ 08505. Thank you for your interest and support!



1936 photo of the Clara Barton Schoolhouse showing that the bricks and mortar were painted (red).

**PBS Cameras Bring Colonial History Alive in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy**  
**“Revolutionary Road Trips” with Darley Newman will debut in January**  
**By Chuck O’Donnell for TAPinto—New Brunswick**

NEW BRUNSWICK and PERTH AMBOY, N.J. – Darley Newman came to Central New Jersey with a couple of cameramen in tow looking for American Revolution era history. She found it in the dark, dank recesses of the oldest continuously used city hall in the United States.



Darley Newman got to sample Revolutionary-era recipes on her visit to East Jersey Old Town in Piscataway.

For the Emmy Award-winning PBS host and travel expert, fragments of oyster shells embedded in a wall in the basement of Perth Amboy City Hall were proof that history literally forms the foundation of the entire region.

Cameras were rolling when Newman quizzed city historian John Dyke and Mayor Helmin Caba for an explanation, only to discover that in Colonial times the oysters were hauled out of Raritan Bay and eaten, and then their shells were made into mortar.

“They were baked, and that changes their chemical composition,” Dyke said. “You throw them into water, and they turn into putty. Then you add sand and you have oyster shell mortar. But not all the oysters would dissolve, so you have these bits of oyster shells in there.”

Newman spent a Tuesday in October in Perth Amboy, examining walls built in 1718, standing in the exact spot where Benjamin Franklin’s son was placed in cuffs for being a British loyalist, and walking in history’s footsteps for part of her upcoming PBS series, “Revolutionary Road Trips.”

On Monday, she was in New Brunswick, where she stood on the spot where Alexander Hamilton’s cannon ball battery covered Gen. George Washington’s troops as they retreated across the Raritan River. She also had lunch at Cuzin’s Seafood and Clam Bar, which was the site of Washington’s headquarters when it was known as Cochrane’s Tavern.

You’ll also be able to spot New Brunswick’s vibrant performing arts district on Livingston Avenue and snippets of Rutgers University (nee Queens College) when the series premieres on PBS in January.

Newman says that although she hopes viewers see these places through her enthusiastic eyes, it’s people like Middlesex County historian Mark Nonestied, who gave her a guided tour around East Jersey Old Town Village, that have been the stars of the travel/history shows she has been doing on PBS since 2015.

“I always say I’m just the conduit because it’s really the people that we put on camera that are telling the stories,” she said. “That’s what makes it interesting. People can come to these places and meet them, too. They’re in these spaces all the time.



PBS host Darley Newman films a segment in the basement of Perth Amboy City Hall with historian John Dyke and Mayor Helmin Caba.

(continued on next page)



Historian Lisa Nanton gives Darley Newman a tour of the Proprietary House on Kearney Avenue in Perth Amboy.

“But, yeah, I’m definitely curious about the world and I love to learn new things,” she added. “I think people can get that excitement. Usually when we’re filming with people, they get excited, too, because they’re sharing something they love.”

They’re people like Lisa Nanton of the Proprietary House on Kearny Avenue in Perth Amboy.

On that Tuesday morning, she shot a segment explaining how the last official royal governor’s mansion was home to William Franklin, the last royal governor and son of the famous Founding Father.

Nanton pointed to an area where a couch stretched across a creaky

wooden floor and noted that this was the precise spot where Franklin was taken into custody and charged with treason.

When Newman asked what happened to him, Nanton revealed that he was hauled off to jail in Connecticut. “He was having a terrible time there,” she said. “He lost all his teeth and became sickly. When word reached Ben Franklin that his son was not doing well, he said, ‘I have no son.’ He completely rejected him.”

Other episodes of the “Revolutionary Road Trips” will focus on Princeton and Trenton. The series is scheduled to run for three seasons, leading up to the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution’s conclusion.

Having a camera crew traipsing through the streets was exciting, Caba said, considering the city’s history continues to be rewritten with every new wave of immigrants that arrives at its shore. Where once it was Scottish and English sailors arriving here during the American Revolution, now it’s immigrants from Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic and other places.

“The saying that I have is that we preserve our history but embrace the future,” Caba said. “Perth Amboy has always been an immigrant city. From Mexico down, you see immigrants arriving in the city. We embrace that diversity.”



On Hamilton Street in New Brunswick, Darley Newman talks with historian Mark Nonestied about the city’s rich history.

**Darley Newman’s programs can be viewed on**  
<https://darley-newman.com/>

**Enjoy a preview at the link below:**

<https://darley-newman.com/attend-the-smithsonian-associates-travels-with-darley-revolutionary-road-trips-event/>

**[Upcoming Revolutionary Road Trips \(broadcast dates unavailable\):](#)**

- 1106 Northern Virginia
- 1107 South Carolina: Revolutionary Road Trip Part I
- 1108 South Carolina: Revolutionary Road Trip Part II

- 1109 New Jersey: Revolutionary Road Trip Part I
- 1110 New Jersey: Revolutionary Road Trip Part II
- 1111 New Jersey: Revolutionary Road Trip Part III

## Morven Museum & Garden Awarded \$647,300 in Grant Funding from New Jersey Historic Trust

We are pleased to announce that Morven has been awarded \$647,300 from The New Jersey Historic Trust, an affiliate of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA), from the Preserve New Jersey Historic Preservation Fund to save and promote historic sites throughout the state. Morven was a part of seventy-one preservation planning, municipal, county, and regional planning, heritage tourism, and capital projects included in this year's list of recommendations.



### *Funds will go towards:*

- Updating marketing materials, including a revamped website and cross-promotional efforts in commemoration of the U.S. Semiquincentennial in 2026
- Refurbishing driveway and parking lot
- Modernizing elevator to keep the museum accessible and ADA compliant
- Addition of exterior lighting in the parking lot, in the rear of the property, and throughout our main walking paths

*We thank the New Jersey Historic Trust for their generosity and look forward to implementing the funds for these various projects in 2024 through 2026.*

## The Unveiling of the Richard Holcombe House Interpretive Sign in Lambertville

The Lambertville Historical Society and Mayor Andrew Nowick hosted an unveiling of the Richard Holcombe House interpretive sign on October 27. The sign is located near 260 N. Main Street, Lambertville, NJ at the corner of North Main Street and Phillips Barber Road.

Attendees included New Jersey Historic Trust Executive Director Dorothy Guzzo and Historic Preservation Specialist Ashley Parker, Lambertville Historical Society board members, fellow community members as well as Mayor Nowick.

The sign describes the history of the Richard Holcombe House dating back to circa 1756 and the acquisition of land surrounding the house by Richard's father, John Holcombe, one of Lambertville's first settlers, in the early 1700s. Richard Holcombe and his family hosted General George Washington and his aides in July 1777 and again in June 1778, giving the house its status as "Washington's Headquarters." Washington's stay in 1778 occurred when he waited for his army to cross the Delaware at Coryell's Ferry (the original name for Lambertville) en route to the Battle of Monmouth. The Continental Army had left Valley Forge to intercept the British army as it marched from Philadelphia to New York. (continued at top of next page)



In attendance at the unveiling of the sign were, from left: Ed Hoag, LHS Board member, Nancy Campbell, LHS Secretary, Jeff Campbell, LHS President, Ashley Parker, Preservation Specialist, New Jersey Historic Trust, Chuck Hanson, LHS board member, Dorothy Guzzo, Executive Director, New Jersey Historic Trust, Lambertville Mayor Andrew Nowick, LHS board member and project coordinator, Tom Ogren.



A companion interpretive sign entitled “Coryell's Ferry” was installed near the New Hope-Lambertville bridge. This sign describes the early history of the ferry and the 1778 crossing of the Delaware by the Continental Army of over 10,000 soldiers as it marched along Old York Road from Pennsylvania into New Jersey.

The Lambertville Historical Society fosters, inspires and encourages the awareness, preservation and appreciation of Lambertville’s history and architecture through education, member engagement, community involvement, and the curation, promotion and conservation of the James Wilson Marshall House and Museum.

This project was supported by financial assistance from the New Jersey Historic Trust through the Discover New Jersey History License Plate Heritage Tourism Grant Program.

## State Library Launches Digital Video Project with Local Historical Societies (cont'd from p. 1)

much information and text can easily make a webpage cumbersome, and a spreadsheet would not do these organizations justice. Plus, we needed something that could be easily shared in the digital environment; thus, the idea of a video project was born.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Historical Society of Princeton for agreeing to be our pilot organization as we developed our workflow; we gained many valuable insights into the workflow for a project this size. As with any project, communication was essential. We provided them with a project proposal so they understood our vision and goals, ensured the HSP had our questions in advance with ample time to prepare, and solicited feedback throughout the editing process. Internally, we realized just how important visual mapping was to ensure that we were capturing the right content, placing it in the right section, and staying within video length. It also afforded us the opportunity to reflect on our own video content creation, which resulted in new standardized formatting for our own content.

Since the release of the video (<https://youtu.be/GAJDO0b2sFE>) and blog (<https://tinyurl.com/hspbloggerpost>) on October 5, 2023, we received interest from a growing number of historical societies throughout the state. We were also graciously afforded the opportunity to speak to members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey on January 10, 2024 that has continued to generate interest. If your organization would like to participate in this project, please fill out the registration form at <https://www.njstatelib.org/historical-society-video-project-registration-page/>. We are excited to embark on this project and build lasting partnerships with our state’s many historical societies.

## Telling Women’s Stories: A Toolkit for Historic Sites and Museums

[www.ncwhs.org](http://www.ncwhs.org)

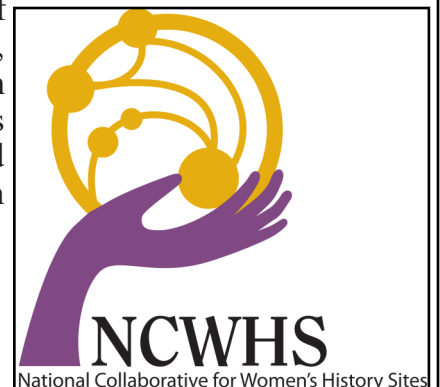
“There is no site that doesn’t have women’s history. If we are to understand who we are and where we’ve come from, we need to know the whole story.”

— Heather Huyck, Ph.D.

The National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites (NCWHS) has created a free, online toolkit for any historic site staff and volunteers looking to incorporate women’s history into their site’s story. The toolkit includes research tips as well as practical advice on using tangible objects from the collection, the landscape and the architecture of a site. It also includes case studies from historic sites around the country that illustrate challenges and successes in broadening interpretation.

NCWHS was started in the late 1990s to support volunteers and staff of women’s history sites, to identify new sites that tell a woman’s story, and to promote women’s history at *all sites*. A 501(c)3 registered in New Jersey, NCWHS is membership-based, open to both individuals and organizations. The board of 16 directors includes academic and public historians from across the country. NCWHS is active on Facebook and Instagram.

(continued on the next page)



Another recent NCWHS project is the National Votes for Women Trail ([www.nvwt.org](http://www.nvwt.org)), which tells the story of the grassroots movement for women’s voting rights with an online database and a nationwide network of roadside markers. A podcast series about the Trail, “Her March to Democracy,” will be released in March 2024.

Access the toolkit at <https://ncwhs.org/resources/twstoolkit/> for a web-based or downloadable version. Making the toolkit an online and accessible resource was accomplished with financial assistance from the New Jersey Historic Trust through the Discover NJ History License Plate Heritage Tourism Grant Program.

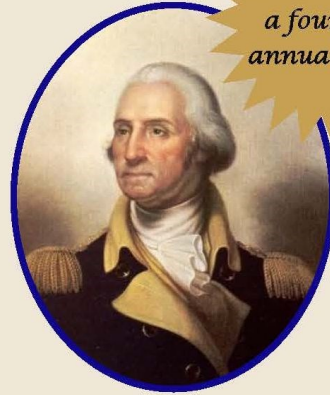
## SAVE THE DATE

### Symposium: *Why Washington Chose Middlebrook: Geography and Logistics*

Saturday, March 16, 2024

9:00 am - 3:30 pm

Raritan Valley Community College  
Conference Center, RVCC Drive  
North Branch, NJ



The second of  
a four-part  
annual series!

## CALLING ALL HISTORIANS AND HISTORY BUFFS!

#### Speakers & Presentations:

- Dr. Michael Beck, “The Logistics of Middlebrook”
- Dr. Richard Hunter, “The Archaeology of Middlebrook”
- Noah Lewis, “Ned Hector: A Black Teamster in the Revolution”
- Nelson J. Abrams, “A Colonial Surveyor in the American Revolution”
- Eric Olsen, “A Tale of Two Cantonments: Morristown vs. Middlebrook”



\$35 per person | \$28 for veterans | \$20 with valid student ID | Lunch will be provided!

**Seating is limited, please register early!**  
**Register and Learn More at <http://www.htanj.org>**  
**Questions? (908) 240-0488**  
**E-mail: [barthlinda123@aol.com](mailto:barthlinda123@aol.com)**



Funded in part with support from the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission, a partner of the New Jersey Historical Commission, and the New Jersey Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

## Naval Air Station Wildwood

### Cape May Airport, Lower Township, NJ -

Nearly eight decades after its construction, Hangar #1 at the Cape May County Airport stands as a testament to American ingenuity and the can-do spirit. Assembled by the United States Navy in 1942 from a kit delivered via railroad, this all-wood aircraft hangar, made of Douglas Fir from Washington State, serves as a living relic of World War II history.

Originally named Naval Air Station (NAS) Rio Grande, the airport underwent a name change to NAS Wildwood due to confusion with Rio Grande, Texas. In April 1943, NAS Wildwood became a training facility for dive bomber squadrons destined for the Pacific and European theaters. The air station's peak activities in October 1944 witnessed nearly 17,000 takeoffs and landings. Tragically, 129 crashes occurred from 1943 until 1945, resulting in the loss of 42 aviators. A wall of names now memorializes these brave individuals.

Following World War II, the airport transitioned to civilian use, and Hangar #1 was eventually left abandoned and neglected for years. Dr. Joseph and Annie Salvatore acquired the building, founded the NASW Foundation, and started securing grants for the rehabilitation of Historic Hangar #1 in 1995. In 1997, it opened as the Naval Air Station Wildwood (NASW) Aviation Museum, housing vintage aircraft from all military branches and offering visitors a step back in time.

Walking through Hangar #1's doors, visitors are immersed in the 1940s ambiance with music and the scent of engine grease lingering in the air. Staff members tend to a collection that spans the early WWII-era Boeing Stearman biplane to modern jets like the F-16 Fighting Falcon. Each aircraft holds a unique purpose and story, making the museum a captivating experience.

The aircraft collection at the museum is diverse and includes iconic pieces such as the F-14 Tomcat, made famous by the 1986 hit film "Top Gun," and the F-5 Tiger, which took on the role of a "MiG-28" in the movie. WWII enthusiasts can marvel at the TBM Avenger torpedo bomber, built in Trenton, NJ by General Motors, and a recently restored Grumman F6F Hellcat, renowned as the "ace maker" for its impressive 19 to 1 ratio in shooting down Japanese aircraft.

Unlike many museums, NAS Wildwood encourages children to interact with select aircraft, climb into the pilot's seat, and explore the renovated Bader Field Air Traffic Control Tower for a taste of being a real air traffic controller. Step into the awe-inspiring 92,000-square-foot, WWII-era double-wide wooden hangar and become part of the action. NAS Wildwood offers a family-friendly experience with over 26 aircraft, a genuine air traffic control tower, military jeeps, exhibit rooms, and more.

*Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum, located at 500 Forrestal Road, Cape May County Airport, is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from March through December and weekdays during January and February. The museum is a pet-friendly destination, perfect for visits on rainy days. Also, don't miss special events like AirFest, Wings & Things, and Christmas at the Hangar.*

*For more information, visit [USNASW.ORG](http://USNASW.ORG) or call 609-886-8787. Embark on a journey through aviation history and experience the thrill of being part of this extraordinary museum.*



TBM Avenger outside historic Hangar #1 at the Naval Air Station Wildwood

**Station Wildwood will host the League's Spring Membership Meeting on April 13. See page 19-20 for more details.**

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Charlotte Banks  
William Baskay  
Lucienne Beard  
Black Power! 19th Century  
William Bogertman  
Barbara Brown  
Margaret Carlson  
Linda Childs  
East Amwell Historical Society  
Jeff Finegan  
James Ham  
Vanessa Hamilton  
Wendy Hudson  
Jewish Historical Society of North Jersey

Kofile Technologies  
Jane Krueger  
Joan Lowry  
Margate City Public Library  
Evelyn C. Murphy  
National Collaborative for Women's  
History Sites  
Ogdensburg Historical Society  
Pennsville Township Historical Society  
Susan Rosenberg  
Lesley Schierenbeck  
Diane Senechal  
Vera Shakhov  
Jennifer and Rob Welch

# JOB MARKETPLACE



**Employers:**  
Post open job  
listings



**Job Seekers:**  
Review postings  
OR  
Post resume

**VISIT TODAY!**



THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL  
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY



Check out the Job Marketplace on our website! You'll find this great new program under the Newsletters and Resources section. **Job seekers can also post their resumes.**

Members can post job opportunities **free of charge!**

We are working with New Jersey colleges and universities to spread the word about our latest initiative, so be sure to post today!

## OUR BUSINESS SUPPORTERS

Dear League Members,

We hope that you will patronize our business supporters. Please consider inviting retail or commercial businesses to become Business Members of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey and support our mission of promoting the preservation of the historical heritage of New Jersey by stimulating among member organizations the development of programs, projects, and publications that celebrate this heritage.

## ALLEN & STULTS CO., INC. INSURANCE

*Since 1881*

Business, Institution, Professional,

Home, Auto, Life,

Health-Individual and Group.

800-792-8660 609-448-0110

[www.allenstults.com](http://www.allenstults.com)

Cappy Stults [costults@allenstults.com](mailto:costults@allenstults.com)

106 N Main, Hightstown, NJ 08520

**We protect historic properties and organizations**

**DANIEL LEOCADI** | **ESTABLISHED Colloidionist** HAMILTON, NEW JERSEY

HANDCRAFTED IMAGES  
BY APPOINTMENT

TEL: (609) 845-4811  
DANIELLEOCADI.COM



Daniel offers portrait sessions at his studio in Hamilton, NJ by appointment, and is also available to travel to special events with his mobile setup to provide services to the historical community.

This process was used by Mathew Brady to capture the Civil War and is the most archival photographic process that exists today.

Daniel Leocadi is a New Jersey based wet plate collodion photographer creating beautiful tintype and glass portraits using the same process from the 1850s.

By *D. Leocadi*

 THECOLLODION COLLECTIVE

# FREE WORKSHOPS



## *League Workshops for Members*

The League is now offering workshops virtually for its members. These workshops are designed to strengthen your organization and make it a sustainable society for the future. Workshops are free to any member organization or individual.

You may request a private workshop for your organization or attend a League workshop, which are offered periodically. Any upcoming workshops will be advertised online, in emails sent by the League and in the League newsletter. **You can register for any of the League workshops by following the registration directions for that workshop or by contacting Pary Tell at [parytell@gmail.com](mailto:parytell@gmail.com).**

The following workshops are available:

Your Mission, Vision and Long Range Plan Your mission 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 Do you want your members to know that you are being responsible with their donations? Do you want to attract financial supporters? Are you applying for grants? Your financial information must be in “good order.” This workshop will cover preparing your annual budget, budgeting for special events and unforeseen calamities, as well as the financial reports that you are required to file with the IRS and State.

Bad Boards, Bad Boards, Whatcha Gonna Do? 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 you have a dedicated and effective board, including board roles and responsibilities, and how to recruit volunteers and develop them into board candidates.



THE LEAGUE OF HISTORICAL  
SOCIETIES OF NEW JERSEY

## Criteria for the Kevin M. Hale Newsletter Awards

The Hale Publication Awards are open to all societies who are current members of LHSNJ. All entries must have been published during the calendar year 2023. Only one issue of the newsletter per organization should be submitted for consideration. **Five copies of each entry are due no later than February 5, 2024.** They should be mailed to JB Vogt, Chair, Publications Committee, 6 Forty Oaks Road, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889. Leave phone messages at 908-534-4600 or email [jnvgt6@gmail.com](mailto:jnvgt6@gmail.com) with questions. A cover letter must accompany all submissions. The letter will include a contact email. The letter should state the frequency of publication and whether or not it is available online.

### NEWSLETTER CRITERIA

#### Front Page:

Frequency of publication?

#### Front/back pages

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?

#### 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?

### **It's easy to become a member of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey!**

Simply visit us at [www.lhsnj.org](http://www.lhsnj.org) and click on "Join the League." On the drop-down menu, choose your membership type and complete the form. Choose your method of payment and click "Submit."

If you would prefer a printed form, just contact Linda Barth at [barth-linda123@aol.com](mailto:barth-linda123@aol.com) or 908-240-0488, and she will mail a form to you.

**graphics**<sup>®</sup>

increase your reach



**AlphaGraphics Morristown**  
60 Speedwell Avenue  
Morristown, New Jersey 07960  
973.984.0066  
Fax. 973.984.9755  
[www.us293.alphagraphics.com](http://www.us293.alphagraphics.com)

- DIGITAL PRINTING  
Color and Black & White
- TRADITIONAL PRINTING  
1 Color to 4 Color Process
- LARGE FORMAT POSTERS
- BINDERY OF ALL TYPES
- MAILING SERVICES
- WEB ORDERING SERVICE & SECURE FILE TRANSFER

## NEW JERSEY BOOKSHELF

### *Images of America: Morven*

By Elizabeth Allan and Jesse Gordon Simons

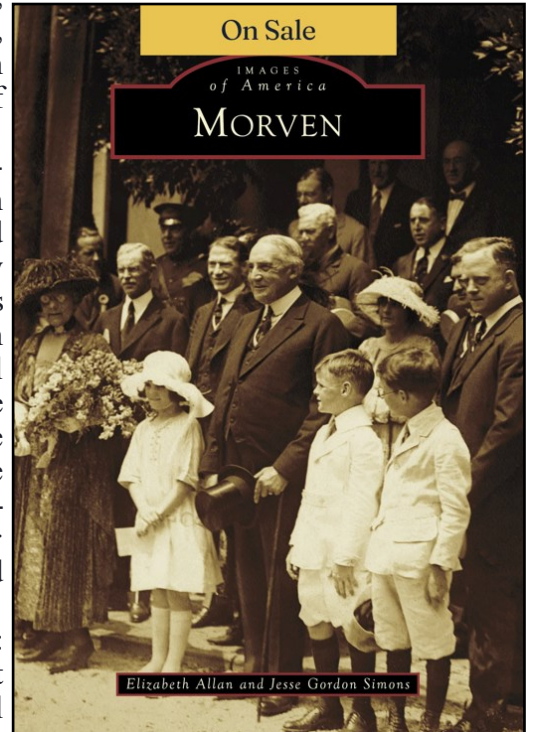
Morven Museum and Garden is excited to announce the publication of *Images of America: Morven* through Arcadia Publishing. Authors Elizabeth Allan and Jesse Gordon Simons, who make up the curatorial department at Morven Museum & Garden, have produced 20 museum exhibitions together. Here, they draw on Morven's archives and local New Jersey collections to celebrate the life of this National Historic Landmark.

After Morven was built for Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, four generations of Stocktons resided there through the early 20th century before the property was leased to Robert Wood Johnson, chairman of Johnson & Johnson. He was followed by five New Jersey governors when Morven served as the state's first governor's mansion. Morven has hosted presidents from George Washington to John F. Kennedy and other notable people, including foreign leader Fidel Castro, movie star Grace Kelly, astronaut Buzz Aldrin, and star athlete Althea Gibson. Morven opened as a museum and garden in 2004. The mansion building that serves as the museum is the largest structure on the property, but other notable landmarks include the 1930s pool house, 19th-century carriage house, and Colonial Revival garden. *Images of America: Morven* explores over 225 years of history with views of a home and property that survived wars, fires, and changing tastes.

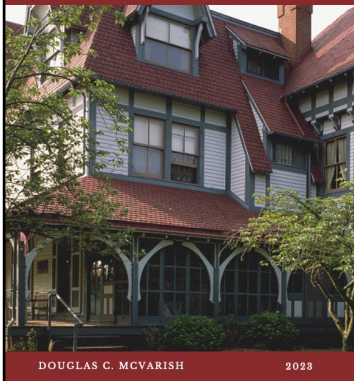
From Elizabeth Allan, Morven's Interim Director & Curator, *Morven*: "As we head into our twentieth year as a museum we are excited to present this new book on Morven. The first publication about our National Historical Landmark since 2004, it gave us an opportunity to share new images of Morven. Many are new to our collection and provide wonderful glimpses into everyday life at Morven into the 20th century."

"In the past few years we have expanded on Morven's 20th century history, especially appreciating the interesting lives of the five governors and their families who lived here. Gathering photographs and stories for this book has also been a moment to reflect on the path that took Morven through restoration in the 1980s and 90s, and recognize the work of those who have come before us," says Jesse Gordon Simons, Curator & Registrar at Morven.

*Images of America: Morven* can be purchased on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com), and at Morven's Museum Shop in-person or [www.morven.org/online-shop](http://www.morven.org/online-shop). Morven Museum & Garden, 55 Stockton St, Princeton, NJ, is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



### Researching the History of a New Jersey House



### Researching the History of a New Jersey House Douglas C. McVarish

During my more than thirty years of work as an architectural historian, I found that many (dare I say most?) historical societies and local history collections are organized to serve the needs of the family historian rather than the building historian. Many of the information sources used by genealogists, however, are also useful in compiling house histories.

This guide presents the process of conducting research on historic houses beginning with consulting internet sources and continuing in a series of easy-to-follow steps. The book includes a sample capsule house history and a variety of appendices. I hope that those who employ the methods in this book may be interested in providing a copy of the finished product to their local historical society.



## **Frenchtown: Fires, Floods, Fads, and Felonies!** By Rick Epstein

*Frenchtown: Fires, Floods, Fads, and Felonies!*, a history of the riverside town, has been published by the Fargo Family Foundation. Written by Rick Epstein, it traces the town's transition from ferry crossing to tourist mecca. Epstein is a Hunterdon County Historical Society trustee and Frenchtown's official historian.

"It's a whale of a book," boasts Epstein. "In fact, at 200,000 words it's the size of 'Moby Dick.' But it's funnier and has 75 illustrations." He did much of the research in the Hunterdon County Historical Society's Deats Library and has high praise for the helpfulness and hospitality of HCHS administrator Dave Harding and librarian Pam Robinson. "Cornelius Larison of Ringoes claimed that his grandfather gave Frenchtown its name in the 1790s, and I wouldn't have known that if Dave hadn't shoved it under my nose," said Epstein.

The book draws from interviews, old newspapers, maps, books, photos, diaries, memoirs, council minutes, deeds, contracts, and Epstein's own recollections. It contains a detailed account of the Great Fire of 1878 and information on local crimes and tragedies. The histories of Frenchtown's churches, schools, police department, factories, chicken hatcheries, fire company, fraternal lodges, library, and cemetery are also presented.

The people get lots of attention, too. Starting with the founder, Paul Henri Mallet-Prevost, who fled France to avoid the guillotine, the book tells about the manufacturers, merchants, soldiers, politicians, pranksters, and builders who animated the town. "My favorite chapter is titled 'Stunts, Gags, and Shenanigans,'" says Epstein. "There's lots of fun there, including a couple of capers narrated by T. Powers Williams, an excellent writer and storyteller who grew up here in the 1860s."

The hardcover book is more than 460 pages long and weighs more than two pounds. "It's like picking up a brick," says Epstein.

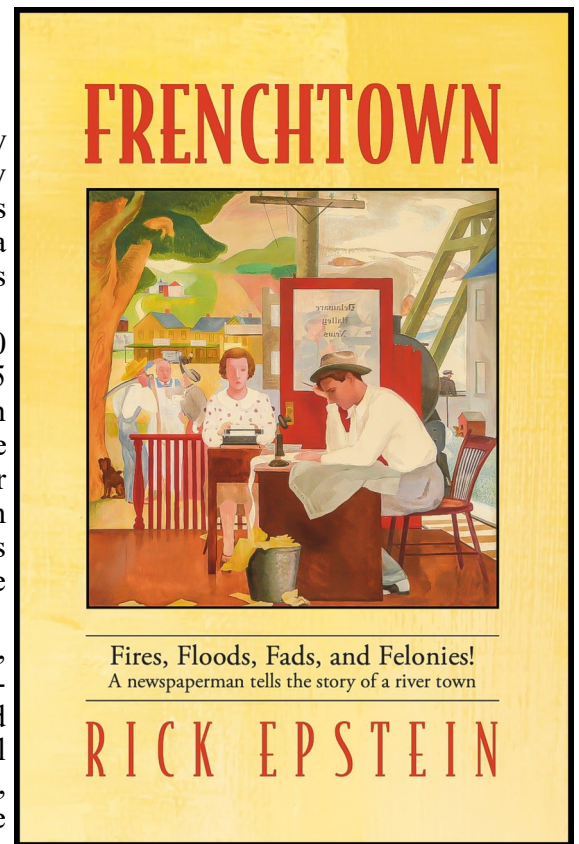
Rick Epstein landed in Frenchtown in 1977 and has been editor of the *Delaware Valley News* and the *Hunterdon County Democrat*. When his children were young, he wrote a funny-dad column that he sold to 175 publishers in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. Since 2016, he has been conducting walking tours of Frenchtown and working in the library at Delaware Valley Regional High School.

## **Killing Shore: The True Story of Hitler's U-boats Off the New Jersey Coast** By K. A. Nelson

It is January 1942. Six weeks after the United States entered World War II, Imperial Japan is annihilating American forces in the Far East, while the Nazis stand triumphant over much of Europe. Adolf Hitler's forces are about to commence an assault along the coast of the United States, but this "Atlantic Pearl Harbor" would prove far more devastating than Japan's attack on Hawaii. The wolves are closing in, and few Americans realize their beaches and coastal cities are about to witness the worst naval defeat in American history.

For the beleaguered Allies, the key to victory lies in the vast economic and military resources of the Western Hemisphere, but only if Allied merchant ships can bring it across the Atlantic. These civilian-manned vessels are the backbone of the American war economy and the lifeline enabling Britain and the Soviet Union to survive—but Hitler's favorite admiral also knows this, and he has set in motion a plan of unprecedented

(continued)

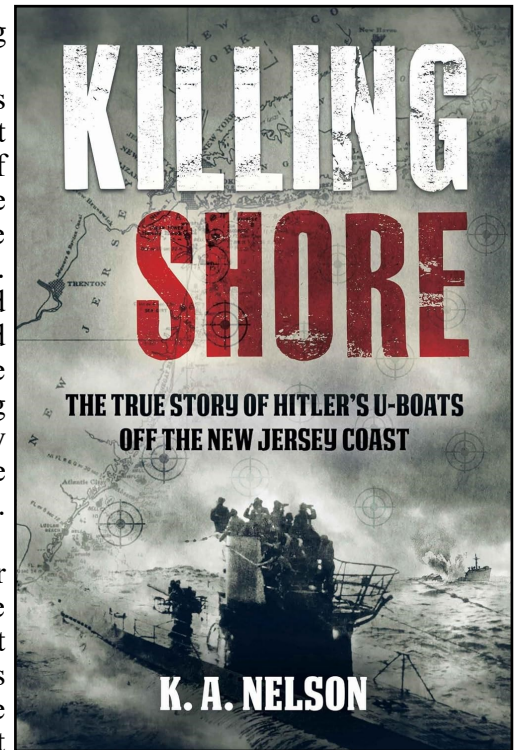


boldness. Germany's dreaded submarines, or "U-boats," are going to the United States.

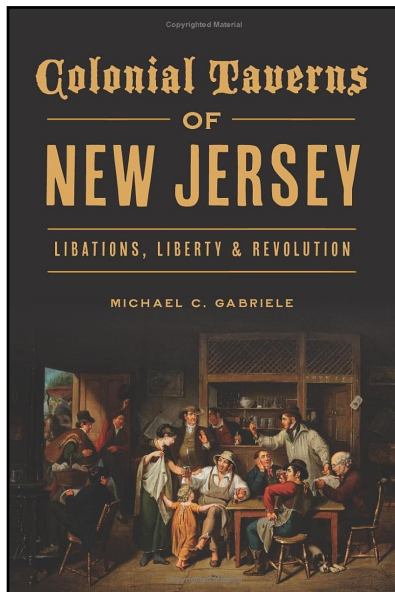
The fiery months that followed would pit German U-boat sailors against American servicemen in a desperate battle that stained East Coast waters with oil and blood. Thousands perished as hundreds of ships were sunk. Plying the seas amid this deadly cat-and-mouse game was a stalwart contingent of civilian mariners who crewed the tankers and freighters supplying the war against the Axis powers.

Numerous U.S. coastal states became battlefronts in 1942, and the events that transpired off New Jersey illustrate the brutality and devastation of this pivotal but forgotten campaign. Today, the seafloor along the Garden State is strewn with shipwrecks attesting to the innumerable ways to die faced by friend and foe alike only miles from the boardwalk. Though these seafarers' lives were forfeited, the battle they fought would decide the fate of millions. The book will be released in April 2024.

Kyle A. Nelson would be honored to make himself available for any sort of event, whether a presentation/Q&A or interview of some kind. The focus would be entirely on the subject of the book (not about him). If there is interest in a presentation, he can also tailor its focus as desired (for example, life for civilians along the Shore during this time). Interested parties may contact Kyle Nelson at 267-326-3160 or via email at [KyleANelson1@gmail.com](mailto:KyleANelson1@gmail.com). His website is [www.ka-nelson.com](http://www.ka-nelson.com).



## Colonial Taverns of New Jersey: Libations, Liberty & Revolution By Michael C. Gabriele



Eat, Drink, Be Merry and Join the Revolution! New Jersey was the "Crossroads of the American Revolution," and its colonial taverns were havens for Patriots and Loyalists alike to debate the political question of independence and even plan much of the Revolution itself.

Taverns were the social and political centers of colonial society, and the Garden State had a myriad of establishments that played prominent roles in the founding of the nation.

Taverns became recruitment stations for colonial militias and provided a meeting place for local committees of safety. George Washington used them as headquarters and safe houses for his spies and local troops. Discover the intoxicating history of the driving force in the fight for freedom, the colonial tavern in New Jersey.

**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2023 Spring Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
**Naval Air Station Wildwood, Rio Grande, Cape May County**  
**Agenda**

9:00–9:30 a.m.: Registration and continental breakfast

9:30 a.m.: Welcome from Joseph E. Salvatore, MD, Founder & Chairman of NASW Foundation and Patricia Ann Salvatore. Founder & President of Historic Cold Spring Village.

9:45-10:15 a.m.: League business meeting

10:15 a.m.: Coffee break

10:30-11:15 a.m.: *The History of Naval Air Station Wildwood*\*- Bruce A. Fournier & Austin Myers

\*Includes a walking tour of Historic Hangar #1

11:15 a.m.: Free time in Hangar/Photo Opportunities/Restroom Break

11:30-11:45 a.m.: Travel to Historic Cold Spring Village **\*Reconvene at Cold Spring Brewery**, New Jersey's only non-profit brewery; Seashore Road entrance, 733 Seashore Road.

\*Tastings provided

11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.: *The Art of Non-Profit Survival* - Annie Salvatore

12:15 p.m.: Lunch on site at Cold Spring Grange Restaurant

1:00 p.m.: Walking Tour & History of HCSV Robert Bitting (Curator)

**Local Accommodations: Suggested Lodging:**

Icona - Cape May, 1101 Beach Ave, Cape May, NJ 08204

The Virginia Hotel, 25 Jackson St, Cape May, NJ 08204

Grand Hotel of Cape May, 1045 Beach Ave, Cape May, NJ 08204

Ocean Club Hotel, 1035 Beach Ave, Cape May, NJ 08204

Camelot Motel, 103 Howard St, Cape May, NJ 08204

Questions: Contact Bruce A. Fournier 609-886-8787; [aviationmuseum@comcast.net](mailto:aviationmuseum@comcast.net)

To register, please complete the form below and mail it with your check for \$30 (payable to: NASW Foundation, to NASW Foundation, 500 Forrestal Road Rio Grande, NJ 08242)

**Please register by April 1, 2024.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

**The League of Historical Societies of New Jersey 2023 Spring Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 13, 2024**  
**Naval Air Station Wildwood, Rio Grande, Cape May County**

**Directions:**

**\*\*Directions to Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum\*\***  
500 Forrestal Rd, Cape May, NJ 08204

***From the North (Garden State Parkway):***

Garden State Parkway South to  
Exit 4 for Rio Grande, exit onto  
Right turn onto Route 47 North  
Left turn on Route 9 South  
Right turn on to Breakwater Road  
Right turn on Lexington Road into Airport Complex  
Right turn on Forrestal Rd  
Arrive at Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum

***From the North (Route 55):***

Route 55 South to  
Route 47 (Merge) to  
Route 347 to  
Route 47 (Merge) to Rio Grande  
Right on S Railroad Ave (turns into Seashore Rd)  
Right turn on to Breakwater Road  
Right turn on Lexington Road into Airport Complex  
Right turn on Forrestal Rd  
Arrive at Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum

***From the South:***

Garden State Parkway North  
Exit 4 for Rio Grande, exit onto  
Left turn onto Route 47 North  
Left turn on Route 9 South  
Right turn on to Breakwater Road  
Right turn on Lexington Road into Airport Complex  
Right turn on Forrestal Rd  
Arrive at Naval Air Station Wildwood Aviation Museum



**Safe travels!**