



Volume 9, Issue 1

**The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance**

Summer, 2007

**WHERE THE MILLSTONE RIVER FLOWS**

By

Donald Johnstone Peck

President Emeritus, Proprietary House Association  
 President, Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

**Inside this issue:**

Inside Story 2

Inside Story 2

Inside Story 2

Inside Story 3

Inside Story 4

Inside Story 5

Inside Story 6

From its headwaters in New Jersey's Inner Coastal Plain in western Monmouth County, the Millstone River flows north for some 38 miles until it empties into the Raritan River, a short distance below Finderne. The river's Native American Indian name was "Mattawang," which meant "hard to travel." Originally it flowed in the opposite direction but during the last great Ice Age its normal course was reversed. At first a major transportation route for farm products during the colonial period, it was superseded by River Road, which formally opened up in 1740.

The Millstone River passes through Cranbury, an important stagecoach stop. George Washington and the Continental Army spent the night of June 26, 1778 here before advancing to confront the British Crown Forces on June 28, 1778 at the Battle of Monmouth. It was the largest land offensive of the American forces, the largest artillery battle of the American Revolution and the longest one-day battle of the war.

Meandering its way into Princeton and Kingston, the Millstone River passes by Washington's last wartime headquarters, Rockingham. From August 23 to November 10, 1783, Washington resided here while the Continental Congress deliberated at Nassau Hall, Princeton Borough, the de facto capital of the United States. The Dutch Reformed Church (later known as the Reformed Church of America) had its beginning in this area, in 1703, when a house of worship was built near a brook known as "Three Mile Run." A replica of this building may be seen at East Jersey

**THE SUNDAY SERIES**

**PIPE ORGAN RECITAL & DUTCH DESSERT RECEPTION**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2007 AT 3 PM

**HILLSBOROUGH REFORMED CHURCH AT MILLSTONE**

1 (old) Amwell Road & Route 533

Millstone, New Jersey

Phone (908) 359-3391

Dr. Davis Folkerts, internationally known recitalist and RMHA member, will perform "**Music From the Golden Age of Organ**" on the Charles M. Ruggles mechanical action pipe organ (opus 22, 1990) similar to those built in Holland. A traditional Holland Dutch dessert and coffee reception, hosted by the **Van Harlingen Historical Society**, will follow the recital. The suggested donation at the door is \$10.00 and will benefit the **GUIDE BOOK**.

The Dutch Reformed congregation at Millstone was organized in 1766. The present church was built in 1828, and is a member of The Reformed Church of America (the oldest Protestant denomination in the country). The Rev. Fred D. Mueller is Pastor.

**UPCOMING SCHEDULED MEETINGS OF  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

All Alliance Sites are encouraged to send their Representative

**SEPTEMBER 20, 2007 FROM 5 TO 6:30 PM**  
**TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 650 RAHWAY  
AVENUE WOODBRIDGE, NJ**  
**Phone 732-634-7422**

The roots of this historic church go back to 1698. The present church building dates to 1861. The adjacent Rectory is the historic 1670 Dunham Homestead built by Jonathan Dunham, builder and operator of the first gristmill in New Jersey. After a reception of coffee and light refreshments, the Rector, The Reverend Robert L. Councilman will lead us on a tour of the church and share some of the history of this remarkable parish.

**OCTOBER 18, 2007 FROM 7 TO 9 PM**  
**Sayreville Historical Society Museum**  
**425 Main Street**  
**Sayreville, NJ**  
**Phone 732-390-7048**

The Sayreville Historical Society Museum is housed in what was originally the first school in Sayreville, known as School #1, which was built in 1885. The Museum displays numerous objects from local history such as a printing press room, railroad memorabilia, Native American artifacts, items related to the Sayre and Fisher Brickworks, and the beautiful amber resin indigenous to Sayreville.

**RHMA HOLDS BOARD RETREAT**

At the June 7, 2007 Executive Committee meeting, it was agreed to plan a four hour "Mini-retreat" to be conducted by Ms Pat Bohse, President of Bohse Associates, Inc. Middletown, NJ. This retreat was held on July 16 at Suydam Farms, Somerset. After a careful review of the interviews and information provided at the retreat, Bohse Associates presented their report of action steps to be taken to meet and exceed our goals and objectives.

**SARAH ISRAEL RETIRES**

After having served as Secretary to the Board for seven years, Sarah Israel announced her retirement at the June 7 Executive Committee Meeting. Serving also as Regent of the NJ Blues Chapter of the DAR at Buccleuch Mansion Museum, New Brunswick, she will continue as a Director of the RMHA until the expiration of her term in 2008. Carol C. Natarelli agreed to serve as Secretary Pro-Tem until another Secretary could be elected. The Executive Committee expressed their deep appreciation to both of these women for their service and dedication to the Alliance.

**Raritan-Millstone Heritage  
Alliance**  
**P. O. Box 5583**  
**Somerset, N.J. 08875-5583**

**An organization of individuals,  
organizations and sites  
working to promote preservation  
and understanding of the rich  
eventful and cultural heritage  
of significant historical,  
educational and cultural sites  
located in Central New Jersey**

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**Vice President, Ann M. Suydam**  
**Secretary, Carol C. Natarelli**  
**Treasurer, Kathryn Stryker**

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**Kathryn Stryker**  
**Ann Suydam**

**The Board of Directors meets the third  
Thursday of March, May, September,  
October  
and November at  
Designated historic and museum  
member sites in the region.**

## WHERE THE MILLSTONE RIVER FLOWS

Continuing past Rocky Hill, the Millstone parallels the 44-mile long Delaware and Raritan Canal. Completed in 1834, it was one of America's greatest inland waterways. Dug in the valleys of the three rivers it connects – the Delaware, Millstone and Raritan - it was an engineering marvel running north through Central New Jersey to New Brunswick where it empties into the Raritan River. Operating for 99 years, it was instrumental in the establishment of New Brunswick as an important New Jersey shipping and industrial center (including Johnson and Johnson) in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During its peak years of 1866-1871, it carried more freight than any other canal in America.

Closed in 1933, the Delaware and Raritan Canal became a state park in 1974. The natural beauty of the park is one of Central New Jersey's most popular recreational corridors for canoeing, jogging, hiking, bicycling, fishing and horseback riding. The 60-mile canal park system, rich in cultural and historical significance, is also a valuable wildlife corridor connecting fields and forests. With its 19<sup>th</sup> century bridges and lock tender houses, cobblestone spillways and hand-built stone-arched culverts, the Federal and New Jersey State Governments have recognized the canal as an historic site.

Nearby Blackwell Mills Canal House, under the umbrella of the Meadows Foundation, was constructed in 1835. Bridge tenders opened the swing bridge to allow barges carrying lumber and coal, plus other canal boats, to pass.

Of significant interest at Griggstown on the Millstone River is the house on Canal Road, at the foot of Bunkerhill Road, once belonging to Revolutionary War spy, John Honeyman. Records of spies were carefully not kept to protect them. But a Honeyman family legend told at the Centennial of the Declaration of Independence in 1876, reported that Honeyman, posing as a British spy, informed Washington of the movement of the main British army to the British field headquarters of New Brunswick and the colonial capital of Perth Amboy by December 20, 1776.

Honeyman also informed Washington that Colonel Johann Gottlieb Rall, Commander of the Hessian mercenaries in Trenton, had failed to secure Trenton as ordered by Lord Cornwallis. The legend is that Honeyman, returning across the Delaware River to Trenton, convinced Colonel Rall that the Continental Army was in a hopeless condition – hungry, cold, with no shoes and on the verge of mutiny.

The result was that Washington planned his Christmas night strike on Trenton routing some 1400 dazed Hessians by 8 am on December 26. The Hessian force was a small one to defeat at the Battle of Trenton, but it was the first notable victory by the Continental Army and one of Washington's most incredible military victories. It served to boost the morale of a dwindling and dispirited army and to galvanize the resolve of those Americans who believed in America's War for Independence.

Crossing the Delaware for a fourth time in 22 days, Washington engaged the British on January 2, 1777, in a daring counter attack with the Second Battle of Trenton and again at the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777. These three victories revitalized the cause for American independence.

Leaving Princeton with his army, Washington headed north to Kingston where, together with Generals Greene, Sullivan and Knox, he made his decision to proceed north along the Millstone River instead of to New Brunswick where the British war chest of 70,000 pounds sterling of hard money was stored.

Then crossing over the Millstone River at Griggstown and onto River Road they camped overnight in the fields at Millstone. Here Hillsborough residents greeted them. Washington and his staff became overnight guests at the Van Doren House. The future president of the United States, James Monroe, and the artist Charles Willson Peale were among those who settled down in the hay barns of Van Doren House. A Dutch barn associated with this house still stands just beyond the house down a straight lane. The next day Washington withdrew his 5,000 troops north to Pluckemin. January 6 they reached Morristown for their winter encampment where smallpox dropped hundreds of the valiant in the January snow.

When Governor Petrus Stuyvesant, the sixth and last Director of Nieuw Netherland surrendered Nieuw Amsterdam to the English on September 8, 1664, this capitulation did not mark the end of Dutch cultural influence. The Millstone area descendants of the original Dutch settlers from Long Island in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century lived much as they had before and continued to speak the Dutch language well into the 19th century.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By  
DONALD JOHNSTONE PECK

### TOURISM IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY: WHAT A TRIP!

NEW JERSEY'S GEOGRAPHY, INCLUDING ITS LOCATION WITHIN A THREE-HOUR DRIVE OF 26 MILLION PEOPLE, MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO VISIT KEY SITES TO BOTH THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION AND THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE STATE.

ACCORDING TO N.J. SECRETARY OF STATE, NINA MITCHELL WELLS, THE APPROXIMATELY 1,100 SITES STATEWIDE THAT HAVE ARTISTIC, CULTURAL OR HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE HAVE TAKEN A BACKSEAT, FOR THE MOST PART, TO THE MARKETING CAMPAIGNS THAT HAVE HIGHLIGHTED ATLANTIC CITY AND THE JERSEY SHORE. THE STATE'S TREASURED HISTORIC SITES RECEIVE ONLY A VERY SMALL PART OF ALL THE TOURIST DOLLARS SPENT. TOURISM IS THE STATE'S SECOND LARGEST INDUSTRY AND IS ITS FASTEST-GROWING BUSINESS SECTOR, WITH TOURISM AT THE SHORE ACCOUNTING FOR NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE TOTAL 36.3 BILLION CONTRIBUTED TO THE STATE'S ECONOMY IN 2005.

While New Jersey has a multimillion-dollar budget for promoting tourism, highlighting its artistic and cultural treasures, advocates for New Jersey tourism have been fighting for a 2.6 million boost in state aid to promote specific tourist regions. This is because people don't travel to see the state but specific locations.

A marketing concept gaining attention is one that would have agencies familiar with local attractions put together tourism packages that include specific itineraries that tourists could follow for various destinations. The comprehensive Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance 2006 *GUIDE TO HISTORIC SITES IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY*, organized by four distinct traveling regions along the Raritan and Millstone River valleys, provides an excellent travel resource based on this latest state-of-the-art marketing strategy.

It is an established fact that 80 percent of tourists and "resident-visitors" use the Internet as an economical means of learning about area attractions and other travel information. The Alliance's Web site, [www.raritanmillstone.org](http://www.raritanmillstone.org), containing its 2006 *GUIDE*, and links to Central New Jersey's cultural and historic sites and liaison organizations, provides a valuable resource to any visitor.

Predictions are that visits to New Jersey sites will continue to increase through 2008 to 77 billion, with business visits gaining in share as the economy expands and business travel rebounds. There is no question: New Jersey is open for business. But as the transient dollars support New Jersey's commercial endeavors, restaurants, hotels, and infrastructure, cultural and historic sites continue to struggle to raise the dollars necessary to continue to protect and preserve these sites.

Boards of Tourism and Chambers of Commerce are not charged with promoting, protecting and preserving our historic and cultural treasures. Their primary purpose is in promoting commerce and tax revenue.

The profit motive that drives the tourism industry may take on a new approach here in Middlesex County by capitalizing on the importance of Central New Jersey in the history of the nation – particularly the Colonial period and the Revolution. The initiative currently being considered by the Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce to establish an entry-point attraction as part of a Visitors Bureau has unparalleled breadth and boldness. While New Jersey is known as the Garden State, this Visitors Bureau will let history buffs know that they have plenty to enjoy, as well.

George Washington made his mark throughout the state during the Revolution, particularly in Central New Jersey at Princeton, New Brunswick and Somerville and at the Battles of Trenton, Princeton and Monmouth. From 1775 to 1783 New Jersey, which accounts for only 0.2 percent of the nation's territory, has a Revolutionary War heritage unequaled by any other state. Four major battles were fought between American and British armies, with some 290 smaller engagements between units of the British army, partisan militias and individuals – more than any other colony by far. It was home to a series of events crucial to the struggle for independence, the vast majority of which are located in Central New Jersey.

George Washington and the Continental Army spent more time here by far (almost half of the Revolutionary War), than in any of the other thirteen colonies. Here in Central New Jersey we can still go to those places where Washington's soldiers fought, drowned, died and prevailed. We can step into their footsteps; see them with understanding and sympathy. And we can glimpse them and all that their great sacrifice for the welfare of our national life represents. Yes, New Jersey is open for business. The real question is will its cultural and historic sites be open, too?

### **A REPORT ON THE SUNDAY SERIES PROGRAM OF MAY 6, 2007**

A large group of RMHA members and **Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House** gathered for a delicious luncheon at the Bernards Inn, Bernardsville, NJ to hear distinguished speakers Clifford Sekel of Somerville, Chief Historical Researcher during the archaeological dig 30 years ago at the **General Henry Knox Pluckemin Artillery Park** and Dr. John L. Seidel, Chief Archaeologist for the dig present their program entitled "*A Case Study of the Cantonment of 1778-1779, Pluckemin, NJ – the Archaeology of the American Revolution.*"

Among the many distinguished guests attending this program were Sarah Tullis de Barcza, Chair of the Washington-Rochambeau, NJ Group, James Cline, President of the Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House, Joanne Kaiser, former VP of the Meadows Foundation, Somerset, and past Executive Director of The Proprietary House Association, Perth Amboy, Linda B. McTeague, Consultant, Basking Ridge and Joseph H. Metelski, former Mayor of Bedminster.



**Jacobus Vanderveer House**

### **THE JACOBUS VANDERVEER HOUSE** Official Opening November 30, 2007

A Christmas celebration at 6:30 pm will welcome guests attending the official opening of the Jacobus Vanderveer House. Visitors will see the new \$320,000.00 addition that includes a kitchen wing to match what was once built in 1772 alongside the home. It will now include a handicapped-accessible ramp and toilet facilities making it available to be open as a museum instead of by appointment.

During the Second Middlebrook Encampment, from December 11, 1778, to June 3, 1779, General Henry Knox, George Washington's Artillery Commander and later Washington's Secretary of War, stayed at the Jacobus Vanderveer House while he commanded the Continental Artillery at nearby Pluckemin Artillery Park, the forerunner of West Point.

To learn more about the Jacobus Vanderveer House, visit [www.jvanderveerhouse.com](http://www.jvanderveerhouse.com) or call (908) 212-7000, Ext. 611.

### **THE NJ HISTORIC TRUST**

**provides financial support, protection and technical assistance through six programs:**

The Garden State Historic Preservation Trust Fund, The Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund, an Emergency Grant and Loan Fund, The Cultural Trust Capital Preservation Grants Program, The Preservation Easement Program, and the New Jersey Legacies Program. For more information contact:

**New Jersey Historic Trust,  
Department of Community Affairs,  
PO Box 457, Trenton, NJ 08625-0212  
or phone (609) 984-0473.**

**PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN**, Robin Suydam is from a farming family in Franklin Township, whose roots go back to the founding Holland Dutch families of Somerset County. Quoted in the *Home New Tribune*, July 4, 2007, Robin contributed that we live in a country where if you come up with something that's important to you, you can usually make it happen. Look at all the not-for-profits that exist in this country because people said, "You know, something needs to be changed, something needs to be done about that." EDITORS NOTE: We could not agree with Robin Suydam more. The Alliance is a 501 C (3) not-for-profit corporation and we want the public to know that we live in one of the most important historical and cultural locations in the United States of America, where these sites are and why they are important to our future as well as our past.

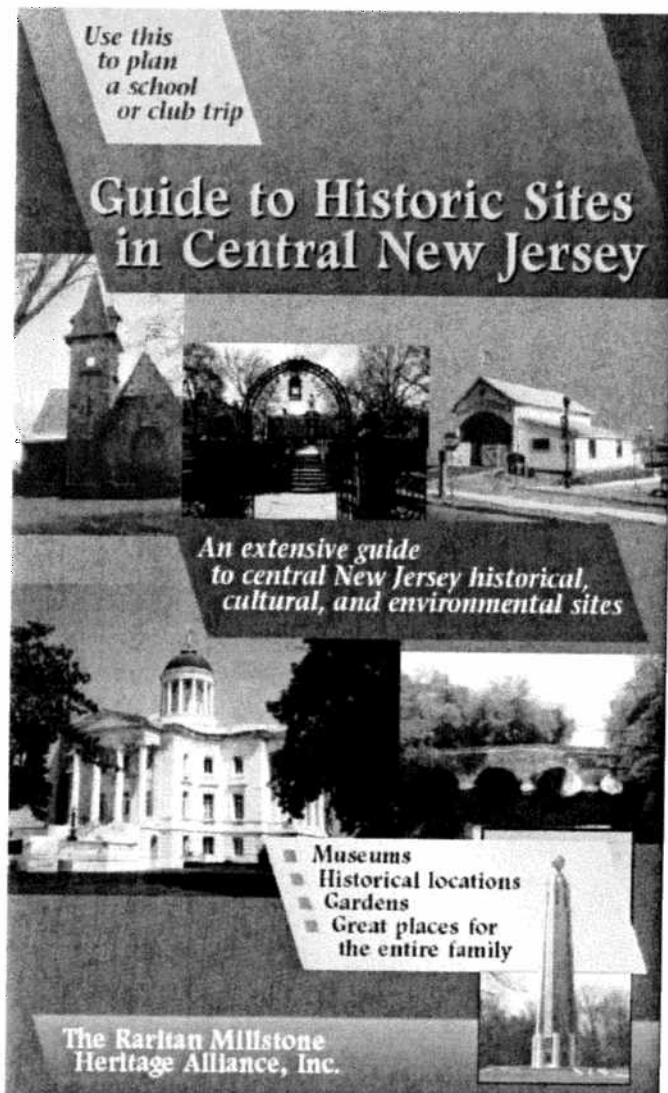
Olde Towne Village, a 12-acre site in Piscataway's Johnson Park containing one of the largest collections of original and replica structures in the state.

Since 1766, The Hillsborough Reformed Church at 1 (old) Amwell Road, Millstone, has been a landmark on the corner of the Millstone River Road and Amwell Road. And the Griggstown Reformed Church, circa 1842, also on the banks of the Millstone River, is considered to be the best example of a Greek revival church, in an unaltered condition, along the D & R Canal from Trenton to New Brunswick. (The adjacent one room Griggstown School House served Griggstown residents for 99 years closing only in 1932.)

The Millstone Historic District is included in the State and National Registers of Historic Places. A Somerset County seat of government in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this village always attracted affluent individuals, including the Frelinghuysens. Surviving houses constituting the village date mostly from the following century and include a variety of architectural styles including the Bachman-Wilson residence, designed in 1954 by Frank Lloyd Wright.

This rural historic landscape containing numerous homes and farmsteads, including New World Dutch barns, was visited later in the Revolutionary War by French troops commanded by the General Comte de Rochambeau. Here they traversed River Road, enroute to meet Washington's forces at Princeton, marching together to Virginia and the successful completion of the Battle of Yorktown ending the American Revolutionary War.

New Jersey, as the Crossroads of the American Revolution, is becoming more and more recognized for its historical, cultural and environmental importance in winning the War for Independence. Central New Jersey and the area through which the Millstone River flows, has a rich, eventful and unique heritage that has significantly contributed to the founding of the United States of America.



**DID YOU KNOW** that Franklin Township is located in one of the most densely populated regions of the country, yet it claims over 9,000 acres of preserved land (1/3 of the Township's land mass) and that this area provides key habitat for unique species of plants and animals?

**DID YOU KNOW** that with interest in New Jersey as a destination, and specifically Cross Roads of the American Revolution locales from both tourists within three hours of here or "itinerant visitors" such as you, your friends and neighbors, the Alliance with its extensive GUIDE BOOK TO HISTORIC SITES IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY continues to lead the way to tour 141 listed sites?

**DID YOU KNOW** that Washington Rock Park, in Green Brook, is one of New Jersey's smallest parks? It is the place where General George Washington once stood in 1777, seeking a clear view of the British movements across the New Jersey plain below him. It attracts some 50,000 visitors annually.

**DID YOU KNOW** that the Middlesex County Cultural Heritage Commission recently dedicated an historic roadside marker to Thomas Titus, a freed slave who once owned Titus Farm on Benton Road, South Brunswick? New Jersey and New York were the only northern states that didn't limit slavery during the American Revolutionary War. Anna Aschkenes, Executive Director of the county commission is quoted as saying "Most people when they think of African American history, think of slavery. But they're positive it never happened here (in New Jersey), that it was a Southern issue. But,

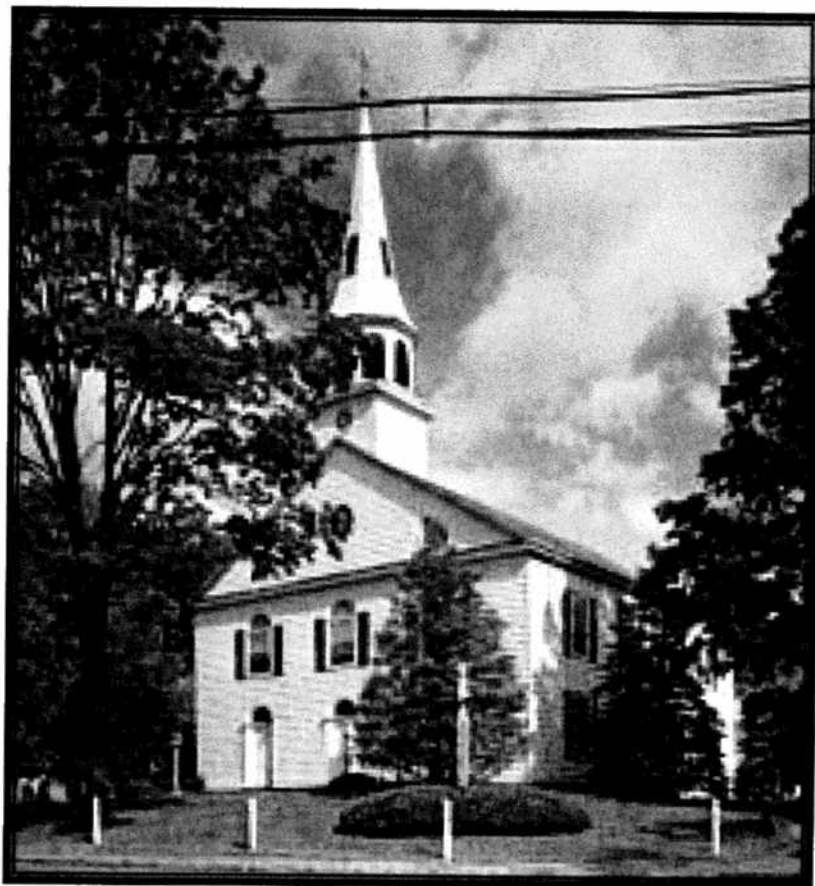
The Dutch Reformed Church (later known as the Reformed Church of America) had its beginning in this area, in 1703, when a house of worship was built near a brook known as "Three Mile Run." A replica of this building may be seen at East Jersey Olde Towne Village, a 12-acre site in Piscataway's Johnson Park containing one of the largest collections of original and replica structures in the state.

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**HILLSBOROUGH REFORMED CHURCH  
AT MILLSTONE**

1 (old) Amwell Road & Route 533  
Millstone, New Jersey Phone (908) 359-3391

**HISTORIC SITES  
OF NEW JERSEY**

Whether it's a Revolutionary War battlefield, a lighthouse, a village reminiscent of times long past, or the home of a president, poet or industrial pioneer, there is something for everyone to experience and enjoy at New Jersey's Historic Sites. Learn why New Jersey's history is America's history. New Jersey State Historic Sites, administered by New Jersey's Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Parks and Forestry, are open year round. For more information on New Jersey's State Historic Sites or Parks,  
Call (800) 843-6420 or (609) 984-0370.

**DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL  
STATE PARK**

**BLACKWELLS MILLS CANAL HOUSE**  
625 Canal Road, Somerset, NJ  
(732) 873-3050

Most of the old canal system remains intact today and is a reminder of the days when the delivery of freight depended upon a team of mules or steam tugboats. Nearly 36 miles of the main canal and 22 miles of the feeder canal still exist, with many historic structures along the canal.



## RUTGERS PREP SCHOOL GIVES BACK

The pupils attending summer school at Rutgers Preparatory School in the Somerset section of Franklin, an RMHA designated site, came to the aid of the Highland Park Food Pantry by holding a weeklong food drive. As people go off on vacation, the borough food pantry runs out, yet the hungry are still around. The food pantry at St. James Episcopal Church, in Edison, an RMHA site, is also feeling the pinch. The summer food drive at Rutgers Preparatory School was the brainstorm of Norman Zboray, the summer school geometry teacher. "I feel it's important for the school to give something back to the community," he said. Editor's Note: Teaching using one's time, talents, gifts and service are important life lessons to be learned at any age.



### THE ABRAHAM STAATS HOUSE

Circa 1740

17 von Steuben Lane, South Bound Brook, NJ

**SEPTEMBER 8 & 9, 2007 – 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

### *"CANAL DAYS AT THE ABRAHAM STAATS HOUSE"*

Learn about the D&R Canal era while strolling the grounds and touring historic Abraham Staats House. Canal slide presentations, living history Civil War re-enactors, quilt making, exhibits and collections of Civil War era artifacts will be featured. Special guest President Abraham Lincoln will address visitors on Saturday. Entry to house tour/exhibits: \$2; parking

## **SOMERSET COUNTY'S WEEKEND JOURNEY THROUGH THE PAST**

October 13 & 14, 2007 – Saturday: 10:00am to 5:00pm

Sunday: Noon to 5:00 pm

There are 22 historic sites in all having activities. For information go to [www.shistoryweekend.com](http://www.shistoryweekend.com).

### **THE PLAINSBORO PRESERVE "RADICAL RAPTORS" SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007 3:30 TO 5:00 PM**

Our fierce feathered friends of the sky are some of the most fascinating birds. New Jersey is one of the best places to see raptor migration. Family members of all ages will learn interesting facts about hawks, eagles, falcons, and vultures. Hike outside and look for an eagle! How well can an eagle see?

Email: [plainsboroanjudubon.org](mailto:plainsboroanjudubon.org)

Phone: (609) 897-9400 or Fax (609) 897-0287

**THE CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION ASSOCIATION** is the only state-wide non-profit organization established to: raise popular understanding of the historical significance of New Jersey's Revolutionary War heritage, further both open space and historic preservation and enhance the quality of life and boost economic development in New Jersey through community revitalization and heritage tourism. Incorporated in 2002, it also offers a forum for citizen initiatives on education, historical interpretation, site use and heritage tourism. New Jersey's National Heritage Area is one of only 37 in the nation. It includes 213 cities and towns and 14 counties, stretching from Fort Lee in Bergen County to Red Bank Battlefield in Gloucester. National Heritage Areas create significant economic opportunities, increasing regional tourism by highlighting historic sites and cultural events.





### CONFERENCE HOUSE CELEBRATES

The 231<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the historic "Peace Conference" and 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Conference House as a museum will be celebrated in grand style on September 15, 2007 between 10 am and 4 pm, at Conference House Park, 7455 Hylan Boulevard, Tottenville, SI. Phone (718) 984-6046. Rain date, Sunday, September 16, same time.

Special events will include house and garden tours of this historic 17<sup>th</sup> century tidewater stone mansion, 18<sup>th</sup> century dances, demonstrations of colonial cooking, 18<sup>th</sup> century crafters demonstrating their spinning, weaving and woodworking skills, children's activities, and live music. Shoppers will enjoy items by the Si Herb Society, the Annadale Garden and South Shore Garden Clubs and other vendors.

The Conference House and Staten Island were part of the Colony of East Jersey until the Boundary Commission of 1714 awarded the island to New York. Within close proximity to the Raritan River and the East Jersey colonial capitol, Perth Amboy, The Conference House is a designated site of the RMHA.

Departing the Indian Queen Tavern in New Brunswick, the three American Peace Commissioners, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Edward Rutledge crossed over the Arthur Kill at Perth Amboy on September 11, 1776 for the only face-to-face meeting of American and British officials during the eight year long American Revolutionary War. However, Commander of His Majesty's North Atlantic Squadron, Admiral Richard Lord Howe only recognized the three American patriots as British subjects thus negating their ability to negotiate peace. This historic conference was later called the "Abortive Peace Conference" and is reenacted by members of the Conference House Association annually.

## ***TEA ROOM OPEN***

The Tea Room at the historic Proprietary House, Kearny Avenue, Perth Amboy, is open Wednesdays from 1 to 4 pm. For \$3.50 per person, visitors can enjoy assorted teas and delicious homemade desserts served by hostesses. Guided tours of the only remaining official Royal Governors' Mansion still standing in the original Thirteen Colonies are also available.



The Proprietary House, which was built between 1762 and 1764 is on the National and State Registers of Historic Places and is owned by the State of New Jersey. It was the residence of the last Royal Governor of New Jersey, William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin.

**For more information or group reservations call (732) 826-5527.**

## ***DRUMTHWACKET WELCOMES THOMAS EDISON***



A bronze bust of Thomas Edison, circa 1880, on display in Drumthwacket library, is on loan from the New Jersey Historical Society. Known as "The Wizard of Menlo Park," his most famous invention was the incandescent light bulb. Under the auspices of The Drumthwacket Foundation, the mansion has been furnished with a collection of some of the finest examples of New Jersey 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century fine art and furnishings

The Drumthwacket estate in Princeton, one of New Jersey's most important house museums, is the official residence of the Governor of New Jersey. For more information call (609) 683-0057 or visit their website [www.drumthwacket.org](http://www.drumthwacket.org).

**For information on the famous Edison Memorial Tower and Menlo Park Museum visit their website [www.menloparkmuseum.com](http://www.menloparkmuseum.com).**

## **SAVE THE DATE**

### **For “The Kilmers”**

**Sunday, Buffet Luncheon and Program, November 18, 2007 at 1:00 PM**

The Heldrich Hotel And Conference Center  
10 Livingston Avenue (Between George and New Streets)  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Phone (732) 249-2220



**Joyce Kilmer**

The guest speaker, Dr. Harvey J. Brudner, Chair of the Joyce Kilmer Centennial Commission, will speak on Frederick B. Kilmer, a leading chemist with Johnson and Johnson who invented “Baby Powder” and his famous son, Alfred Joyce Kilmer, best known for his poem “Trees.” Joyce Kilmer attended Rutgers but graduated with a BA from Columbia University. He died at age 30 by sniper fire at the Battle of Chateau Thierry, in France on July 30, 1917. Members of the Kilmer Family and the distinguished founder of The Heldrich Hotel, John J. Heldrich, will join Dr. Brudner. Joyce Kilmer House, one of the oldest remaining structures in New Brunswick, is open by appointment for tours. Call (732) 745-5117.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

***FOR THE MOST MAGICAL OF EVENINGS!***  
**RMHA’S GALA YEAR-END BENEFIT**

### **IRISH TENORS CHRISTMAS SHOW**

Sunday, December 9, 2007 at 7 PM  
The State Theatre Regional Arts Center  
At New Brunswick, NJ

This Gala is the Alliance’s first major fundraiser, supporting the work of publishing the **GUIDE BOOK TO HISTORIC SITES IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY**. Tickets are \$60.00. Please call (732) 738-5522 to reserve yours now! The State Theatre, which attracts up to 300,000 people each year, is one of Central New Jersey’s outstanding tourist attractions and The Irish Tenors Christmas Show is the most popular show of every season!