



The Link

joining the sites along the rivers

Volume 7, Issue 3

Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance

Fall, 2005

President's Message

- Guidebook -

The new edition of the Guidebook is expected next spring. Significant investment of time and effort has been made toward assembling information and recruitment of advertising. Our publication goal of 50,000 copies distributed free will only be met through advertisements placed in the Guidebook. We have reached a critical point in the process when it seems that we might fall short of our goal. Thanks to Abe Suydam for submitting a letter to the Link editor (found on page) suggesting how important our advertisers are to the success of this venture. We encourage our members to follow through on Abe's suggestions to give area businesses an incentive to continue their support of the Alliance.

- African American Symposium -

Many thanks to the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens for hosting the symposium on The Role of the African American in the American Revolution was held on October 1, 2005.

- Board Meeting -

Please join us for the monthly Alliance Board meetings, the next of which will be on October 20, 2005 at the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission.

- RMHA Website -

If you haven't seen our new website, visit www.raritanmillstone.org. The Guidebook, event calendar, and links to other preservation organizations are all available on our site!

-Welcome-

Welcome to new members Diane Simko Sylvia and Mrs. Portia Orton, and to new member site the Millstone Historic District.

- Peter A. Primavera

CROSSROADS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION STATE HERITAGE AREA

In August, Acting Governor Richard J. Codey signed an executive order that declares New Jersey a Crossroads of the American Revolution and designates a Crossroads of the American Revolution State Heritage Area.

The area comprises 213 municipalities in 14 counties, including Bergen, Camden, Hudson, Hunterdon, Passaic, Morris, Essex, Union, Somerset, Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Burlington, and Gloucester. The State Heritage Area includes a national park, 5 state parks, 13 National Historic Landmarks, and more than 250 other National Register of Historic Places sites and districts, all having resources of the Revolutionary War period.

The designation is expected to assist in the passage of a measure pending in the House of Representatives that would establish a National Heritage Area in New Jersey. Identical legislation passed in the Senate in July. On the federal level, designation of a NHA would authorize \$10 million in funding to assist preservation, recreational, and educational efforts by state, county, and local governments, and private cultural and tourism groups.

The mission of the Crossroads NHA will be to raise popular understanding of the historical significance of these sites, to provide an area-wide network between established historic sites, state parks, private property owners, local governments, not-for-profits, and other civic organizations in order to facilitate further preservation and to offer a forum for new initiatives on site use, management, and historical interpretation. National Heritage Areas create significant economic opportunities, increasing regional tourism by highlighting historic sites and cultural events.

Cate Litvack, executive director of the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association, said Codey's executive order will help this and future generations protect and appreciate the natural cultural and historic resources of New Jersey's significant Revolutionary War heritage. "The designation of a Crossroads of the American Revolution State Heritage Area is historic," Litvack said. "It gives us a cohesive framework for telling the important, interrelated stories of how New Jersey and its citizens contributed to the birth of our nation."

Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance

P.O. Box 5583

Somerset, N.J. 08875-5583

*an organization of individuals and
historic sites working
to promote and preserve the heritage of
Central New Jersey*

officers

President: Peter A. Primavera
Vice President: Ann Suydam
Secretary: Sarah Israel
Treasurer: Everett Zabriskie

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Marjorie Watson
Betty Scott
Kathleen Williamson
John Allen
Paula Henry
Bonita Grant

*The organization meets the
third Thursday of each month, with the
exception of July and August,
at designated historic and museum sites
in the region.*

Link editor: Catherine Bull
732-247-8880



AFRICAN AMERICAN SYMPOSIUM

The Role of the African American in the American Revolution & Genealogical Workshop

The First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens, Somerset, N.J. was the venue for an African American Symposium held on October 1, 2005. The Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance and the Jersey Blue Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored the event entitled "The Role of the African American in the American Revolution."

The Reverend Dr. Deforest Sories, senior pastor of the church, delivered a warm welcome. He was followed by Dr. Giles Wright, Director, Afro-American History Programs at the New Jersey Historical Commission, speaking on "Black New Jerseyans and the American Revolutionary War." Fred Minus, a retired mechanic and a re-enactor at the Old Barracks in Trenton presented "The Testimony of Samuel Sutphin," the dramatic account of Sutphin, a Revolutionary War soldier, as he fights to get his pension. Arthur Lefkowitz, a businessman and independent researcher, offered a slide presentation of "William (Billy) Lee in the American Revolution." Lee acted as Washington's personal bodyguard throughout the war.

The afternoon program included a new trunk "African American Presence in the American Revolution," from the Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission's traveling trunk series entitled Time of Turmoil. Presented by Michael Boylan, this trunk details the experience of the Revolutionary War through the life of Private Oliver Cromwell, an African American soldier.

Many of the attendees took advantage of a Genealogical Workshop conducted by Karen Stroever, N. J. State Daughters of the American Revolution Registrar. She emphasized the importance of recording our family histories for future generations. A genealogical researcher at the DAR National Headquarters, Hollis Gentry spoke about black genealogy from 1850 back to the Revolutionary era.

Congratulations to Marjorie Kler Freeman and Karen Stroever for co-hosting this very important and informative event.





Plainsboro Museum, down black-oak

Plainsboro Preserved *memories of Rotolactor Days*

by George Dawson

If you're looking for glimpses of what Plainsboro looked like 35 years ago, you will have to look pretty hard in many parts of town, that much has changed since 1970.

Townhouse and single-home and office-park development has transformed this once placid Millstone Valley community so thoroughly, that Plainsboro today is known more for its New York and Trenton commuters than for the dairy farmers who once staked a claim to regional (and even national) note.

Your search for old Plainsboro is made much easier by a conconvocation of signs along Scudders Mill and Plainsboro Roads directing travelers to a 19th-century farmhouse near the town center approached between two rows of black oaks: the one-time home of Plainsboro founder-statesman John Van Buren Wicoff, incongruously set amid a recent-vintage municipal complex. The Wicoff house, now municipally owned, is the home of the Plainsboro Museum, whose 17 exhibit areas on the ground floor capture much of what transpired in town B.T.*

The Plainsboro Museum, open on 1st and 3rd Sundays between 2 and 4:30 p.m. (and other hours by appointment), offers collections of artifacts of farming, industrial, and transportation activities from the town's eclectic past, with major representation for the Walker-Gordon dairy farms, its principal 20th-century feature. Walker-Gordon, a high-tech dairy business opened in Boston in 1891, occupied the town's attention for 74 years (before closing in 1971). The dairy gave the nation and world Elsie the Borden Cow, and the Rotolactor, a carousel-mounted milking machine accommodating 300 cows per hour, with its own observation deck for tourists. Walker-Gordon milk bottles and collectibles (including models of Elsie) permeate the exhibit cases. Herman Mueller mosaic murals from the Rotolactor room ornament the corners.

Modern Plainsboro began in 1971, with municipal approval of the 792-acre Princeton meadows development project for Lincoln Properties, of Dallas, Texas, for the west end of town. Other developments and subdivisions swiftly followed.

(*before town-houses)

(continued on page 4)



The town itself is relatively new, as municipalities go, incorporated only in 1919 from parts of South Brunswick and Cranbury (the last of the 25 municipalities in Middlesex County to be established.) Yet the township contains signs of what may actually be Middlesex County's oldest settlement, a 3,700-year-old residential site from the Terminal Archaic period, discovered by archaeological dig in 1982, prior to state construction of the overpass intersection for Scudders Mill Road with U.S. Route 1. Some artifacts from the dig of the paleo-Indian living area are displayed in the museum.

Plainsboro, as a European settlement, began in the early 18th century, when a tavern stop for travelers was opened near the intersection of Dey Road and Plainsboro Road (then the Princeton Road), sometimes called the *Plane Tavern*. Plainsboro, as a post office site, began in 1848. The address was originally Plainsborough (possibly after the tavern name, or the sometimes reference to the land at the mouth of Cranberry Brook as *Cranberry Plains*), but was changed to *Plainsboro* in 1894.

Plainsboro, as a municipality, had its impetus in a school dispute with Cranbury, with the locals wanting a new school and Cranbury deciding the time (during World War I) wasn't right for building one. John V. B. Wicoff, son of a local farmer, a lawyer, and member of the Cranbury school board, joined with Henry Jeffers, president of Walker-Gordon Laboratory Co., and others to petition the Legislature to form a new town, to allow them to build a new school. They were dramatically successful.

Jeffers, and later Wicoff, became township mayor, and the Wicoff home off Plainsboro Road, the setting for Township Committee meetings. Later, the municipality bought the house to serve as the first town hall, and

later still, after building its new municipal complex, offered the house to the Plainsboro Historical Society for use as a museum. The room where the Township Committee met, and other municipal artifacts, are part of the museum exhibits.

Robert Yuell, executive director of Plainsboro Historical Society (and thus staff for the museum), said the history group was formed in 1975, at the beginning of the townhouse development phase, to keep memories of the town's old Rotalactor Days alive. (He himself didn't arrive in town until 1982.) The museum's exhibits are continually changing, as Yuell and the officers-trustees of the Historical Society work through treasure-troves of material and photos from the town's past, offered for safekeeping and hoped-for display by many of the town's older families. In addition to Indian artifacts, farming life, and the Walker-Gordon enterprise, present displays focus on the fire company, rescue squad, Plainsboro schools, and the major Route One highway and Penn Central (now Amtrak) railway lines passing through town that had unique effects on its growth.

Things don't change too fast. Placidity, as well, is part of the town's past, preserved at the museum.





The newly restored Indian Queen Tavern

SAVING HISTORIC
INDIAN QUEEN TAVERN
East Jersey Olde Towne
Piscataway, New Jersey

Almost all of colonial New Brunswick is gone. Commander-in Chief General George Washington visited here in both defeat and victory. Highways and corporate complexes now cover what were extremely important historical sites. Occupied for a time by the British, most major British generals spent time here including British Commander-in-Chief General Sir William Howe. A direct attempt was made on his life on March 9, 1777, while in New Brunswick.

Nothing is left of White Hall Tavern (circa 1756) where Washington stayed on June 23, 1775, while on his way to take command of the Continental Army in Massachusetts. Washington celebrated July 4, 1778 at White Hall Tavern after his victory at the Battle of Monmouth. The subsequent court-martial of General Charles Lee for insubordination also took place there. Like White Hall Tavern, Peter Cochrane's rambling tavern saw a lot of action during the war, and is gone, too. It was headquarters for Washington from November 29 to December 1, 1776, during his "Long Retreat" across New Jersey.

The Neilsen House, headquarters for Sir William Howe from December 2, 1776 to June 22, 1777, was torn down in the 1870s. It had been Colonel John Neilsen who had first read the Declaration of Independence to the citizens of New Brunswick on July 9, 1776, one of the first readings in the new nation.

Still standing is Buccleuch Mansion, built in 1739 and the focal point of 78-acre Buccleuch Park. The estate residence in New Brunswick was originally known as the White House Farm, after its first owner, Anthony Walton White. White, a friend of George Washington, entertained George Washington as guest of honor at this house. White married Elizabeth Morris, daughter of Royal Governor Lewis Morris. He was also a leading Proprietor and Chancellor. It was purchased in 1774 by British General William Burton and housed British soldiers on several occasions during the British occupation of New Brunswick, December 1776 to June 1777. At that time the Enniskillen Guards had occupied the third floor. Washington also visited the house as a guest of Colonel Charles Steward. Since 1914, the Jersey Blue Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, (DAR) founded in 1890, has assumed the care of the interior and furnishings of the 16-room mansion as well as the elucidation of the building's significance under the mantle of its motto "God, Home, and Country."

For 241 years, the Indian Queen Tavern stood at the northwest corner of Albany and Water Streets in the center of New Brunswick. Originally built in 1729 as a one-story structure, it was expanded to two stories and was later known

as the Bell Tavern and, much later, The Parkway. It received countless renovations, the most lasting being of the late Georgian period with the addition of a third floor.

As in many eighteenth century buildings, the supporting walls of the building were unnecessarily large. The original walls were

Indian Queen Tavern (cont'd.)

about two feet thick, needed neither for support nor insulation, since the tavern originally contained two massive central chimneys with sixteen flues apiece.

When the Indian Queen Tavern flourished during the American Revolution, George Washington and John Adams and other colonial statesmen were among its guests. The tavern was a place where prominent Revolutionary War figures dined and rested from their travels. It was also a well-known spot for government meetings and a place to hear the news of the outside world.

Taverns or inns were an absolute necessity; a 1668 law ordered every East Jersey town to provide an "ordinary" for the relief and entertainment of strangers. The local "ordinary" was a social and political center of unrivaled importance. Public meetings, balls, elections and celebrations were held there. The taproom was constantly enlivened by the presence of local gentry assembled for gossip and frivolity. It was the social center of a community where major affairs took place, where revolution was fermented, and where local news was exchanged. Visitors and townspeople all gathered in a main assembly room in front of a fireplace. Here drinks were dispensed, food served and guests raised their voices in a roaring song or a heated argument. Probably no other institution played such a lively and vital role in colonial society. Sleeping rooms were above the taproom and guests slept two or more to a bed.

An act of 1679 absolutely forbade the sale of any liquors whatever to Indians. Drunken Indians were to be seized and kept in confinement until they named the person from whom they had obtained the liquors. In New Jersey in 1682, licensed tavern-keepers and tapsters were held accountable in a measure for the excesses of their guests.

A 1704 New Jersey law gave four hours in the stocks for drunkenness, and forbade anyone to "tipple and drink on the Lord's Day," a stricture considerably modified by the clause "excepting for necessary refreshments."

An act against selling liquors to servants and African slaves, without the permission of their masters, was re-enacted in 1751. In 1758 an act "for building barracks within the colony" provided that any tavern-keeper who sold liquors to common soldiers, without permission of

their commanding officers, or from a justice of the peace, should forfeit forty shillings.

In 1768, the Assembly passed an act making it the duty of the court to ascertain, before issuing any license, whether the applicant possessed sufficient means to enable him to provide a certain number of featherbeds for the use of travelers, and stabling and pasturage for horses.

When the Indian Queen Tavern was threatened with demolition for the expansion of Route 18 in 1971, Dr. Joseph Kler – humanitarian, community leader, philanthropist, and local historian, who had devoted his professional and personal life to the people of Central New Jersey, was the first to speak out against the destruction of this historic property and to take the initiative to preserve it.

Dr. Kler quickly assembled a group of friends, raised funds, and negotiated the removal of the Indian Queen Tavern from its original site. Thus it became the first piece in a mosaic that would preserve the visual image of New Jersey culture today known as East Jersey Olde Towne, originally a non-profit organization that Dr. Kler founded in 1974.

Both Dr. Kler and his wife, Elizabeth Van Hosen Vaughn, had a love for American history. During the 1960s, Mrs. Kler served as Curator for the Jersey Blue Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, of Buccleuch Mansion, in Buccleuch Park and she chaired the Christmas Ball at the Mansion for many years.

Marjorie Kler Freeman, who had worked as Curator and Director alongside her father since the inception of the Village, was elected President of East Jersey Olde Towne after the death of her father, Dr. Joseph Kler, November 21, 1983. In May 1989, East Jersey Olde Towne, Inc gifted the Village buildings to the people of Middlesex County. This nationally acclaimed historic site is administered by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

East Jersey Olde Towne, in Johnson Park (the county's second largest park), is in the "River Road Historic District" of Piscataway, one of the earliest transportation corridors, which had its origin as the Native American footpath, the Minisink Trail. The homes that line this historic road are vernacular adaptations of a variety of styles, including Dutch colonial, Federal, Greek Revival and Victorian.

Located on twelve acres, the Village grew into a working village portraying the culture and everyday life of those who settled in Central New Jersey. Here the Indian

Queen Tavern was reconstructed from new and original materials between 1976 and 1980. In 2005 it was completely restored and re-opened to the public.

One of the most interesting tales of the Indian Queen Tavern begins on Saturday, August 31, 1776, when George Washington informed the Continental Congress "General Sullivan says (British Admiral) Lord (Richard) Howe is extremely desirous of seeing some of the members of Congress..." (Lord Howe in fact did suggest a meeting with delegates of the Continental Congress on New York's Staten Island.)

General John Sullivan, who had commanded the defeated American forces at the Battle of Long Island on August 27, arrived in Philadelphia on September 2 and appeared in Congress on September 3 to deliver Lord Howe's request for a "Peace Conference." Taking the floor in protest, Adams, who was to become the second President of the United States, called Sullivan a decoy duck sent to seduce Congress into renunciation of independence. But after four days of debate, it was decided that a committee be sent to meet with Lord Howe consisting of John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Edward Rutledge.

Sunday, September 8, Benjamin Franklin wrote to George Washington, "The Congress having appointed Mr. Adams, Mr. Rutledge and myself to meet Lord Howe and hear what Propositions he may have to make, we purpose setting out to-morrow and to be at Perth Amboy on Wednesday morning... What we have heard of the Badness of the Roads between that Place and New York makes us wish to be spar'd that part of the Journey."

Monday, September 9, they set out from Philadelphia. Franklin and Rutledge each rode in a high, two-wheeled chaise, accompanied by a servant. Adams went on horseback, accompanied by Joseph Bass.

The road across New Jersey was filled with soldiers marching to join Washington, mostly Pennsylvania men. The journey consumed two days. With the roads crowded, progress was slow and dusty. At New Brunswick, the Indian Queen Tavern was so full that Adams and Franklin had to share the same bed in a tiny room with only one small window. Franklin, who was one of seventeen children, had no trouble with this arrangement. Adams, however, would describe the situation thusly:

"The first night we lodged at an Inn in New Brunswick... The Taverns were so full we could with difficulty obtain Entertainment. At Brunswick, but one bed could be pro-

cured for Dr. Franklin and me in a chamber little larger than the bed, without a Chimney, and with only one small Window. The Window was open, and I, who was an invalid and afraid of the Air in the night, shut it close. "Oh!" says Franklin, "don't shut the window. We shall be suffocated." I answered I was afraid of the Evening Air. Dr. Franklin replied, "the Air within this Chamber will soon be, and indeed now is, worse than that without Doors. Come, open the Window and come to bed, and I will convince you. I believe you are not acquainted with my Theory of Colds." Opening the Window, and leaping into Bed, I said I had read his Letters to Dr. Cooper, in which he had advanced that Nobody ever got cold by going into a cold Church or any other cold air; but the Theory was so little consistent with my experience that I thought it a Paradox...The Doctor then began an harangue upon Air and Cold and Respiration and Perspiration, with which I was so much amused that I soon fell asleep and left him and his philosophy together..."

Wednesday, September 11, 1776, the American Committee left New Brunswick and continued to Perth Amboy. There they crossed the Arthur Kill on Lord Howe's red-and-gilt barge for a meeting that went nowhere – an abortive peace conference. Lord Howe had made it abundantly clear, wrote his Secretary Henry Strachey, that he could not confer with them as members of Congress – that he "could not acknowledge that body which was not acknowledged by the King, whose delegate he was," – and that therefore could only consider them merely as gentlemen of great ability and influence, private persons and British subjects."

To this Adams immediately replied: "Your Lordship may consider me in what light you please, and indeed, I should be willing to consider myself, for a few moments, in any character which would be agreeable to your Lordship, except that of a British subject."

Turning to Franklin and Rutledge, Howe remarked gravely, "Mr. Adams is a decided character," the emphasis apparently on the word "decided." Years afterward Adams would better understand the gloomy look on Howe's face, when he learned that before leaving London, Howe had been given a list of those American rebels who were to be granted pardons. John Adams was not on the list. He was to be hanged.

By
Donald Johnstone Peck
President Emeritus
Proprietary House Association
Director of the Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Re: The Guidebook

As I watch the struggle of the Guidebook Committee to raise the funds to publish the next edition, I ponder about what may be missing in the culture of this historic Alliance that, if present, would help the project to work smoothly.

While visiting with business people who have advertised in prior editions, an answer beings to manifest itself. The Guidebook is published for the general welfare of the many member sites. Through distribution of the Guidebook, the member sites become known to local families, visitors and families new to our region as they move her for work or retirement. Thus the member sites gain the opportunity to gain new members who might otherwise not have been aware of their existence.

Businesses invest in advertising in the Guidebook in anticipation of gaining business from the member site administrators and their supporters. However, time and again I'm advised by former advertisers that they have yet to get that first phone call. The Alliance members should make a habit of asking for proposals from businesses that support them directly and through the Guidebook. When site supporters (or the site itself) need to employ a painter, look in the Guidebook, find a painter if there is one and ask for a quote on the job. It may turn out to be a win-win situation; if not, at least the painting company knows you're trying. That philosophy applies to many of the advertisers.

When anyone reading The Link visits a restaurant that advertises in the Guidebook, write a note on the bill thanking them for their support specifically with the Guidebook. As you are likely aware in your own experience with fundraising, silence can be deafening. The Alliance can only continue to help its member sites as long as they help in their way. Please start helping in this way as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

Abram J. Suidam, Jr.

PLEASE ADOPT ME

So that I can be in the Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance's
2006 GUIDE TO HISTORIC SITES IN CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

A description and photo will be included in the Guidebook. The cost is \$30.00 and your name will be listed as my sponsor. I know you have a favorite spot. Perhaps a memory you would like others to enjoy, and to dream and make their own memories.

New Brunswick Railroad Station
Nevius Street Bridge
Somerset County Court House & Green
Marker for George Washington (Kingston)
Margaret Bourke-White Home (Middlesex)

Thank you. I do hope you will adopt me. You will make me very happy. For information, contact Marjorie Kler Freeman.

2005 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

October 20

Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission
20 Green Street, Engineering Department, Somerville

Somerset County, located on one of New Jersey's primary growth corridors, has experienced rapid population growth and land development. As a result, County residents have developed a growing appreciation of existing cultural resources and a recognition of the need to preserve as much of the County's heritage as possible before it is lost. The Commission was created on August 3, 1983.

November 17

Woodlawn, Eagleton Institute
191 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick

Wood Lawn, the mansion which houses the Rutgers' Eagleton Institute of Politics, was built in 1830 by colonel James Neilson (1784-1862), a member of the third generation of a prosperous family with historic ties to Rutgers and New Brunswick. The current appearance of the house combines several distinct architectural styles including Neo-Classical, Second Empire, and Colonial Revival. Wood Lawn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

December 15, 2005

O'Connor's Beef N'Ale Chowder House
1719 Amwell Road, Somerset

The first recorded ownership of this site dates to 1703 when Dutch settler DenyseTeunissen moved to the area from Long Island. In 1723, Christian VanDoren purchased 357 acres from Teunissen and divided the land into smaller farms. Garrett Voorhees purchased one of these farms which passed to his son Garrett II. During his service in Washington's Continental Army, the original homestead was burned by Cornwallis during his critical and embarrassing retreat from Somerset Courthouse (Millstone) on June 19, 1777. After the war, the British compensated Garrett Voorhees II for the destruction, and Voorhees rebuilt the present Colonial Farms, home to O'Connor's Beef N'Ale Chowder House.

all meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise announced

The Proprietary House

GHOST

TOURS

149 Kearny Avenue • Perth Amboy • New Jersey • 08861

The Proprietary House

Colonial GHOST TOUR

Friday, October 21st
and

Saturday, October 22nd

Tours given on the hour from
5:00pm to 9:00pm

Also

Sunday, October 23rd
1:00pm to 5:00pm

*Anyone dressed in a Colonial
Period Costume will receive a
complimentary cup of hot cider*



ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH OF REAL GHOST SIGHTING

The Proprietary House

Halloween GHOST TOUR

Friday, October 28th
and

Saturday, October 29th
Tours given on the hour from
5:00pm to 9:00pm

*Anyone dressed in a Halloween
Costume will receive a
complimentary cup of hot cider*



Join renowned psychic
Jane Doherty
for a guided tour of the
Proprietary House and its ghosts



\$10.00 per person suggested donation. Adults and children over 12 requested.

Please call 732-826-5527 for directions
or visit
www.proprietaryhouse.org

Refreshments will be sold • Gift shop will be open

Announcements

Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission 2006 Mini-Grant Program

Application forms and guidelines are now available for the Somerset County Cultural & Heritage Commission's Year 2006 Mini-Grant Program. This grant-funded opportunity is available to any Somerset County-based non-profit or government organization proposing an arts or history project/program to take place in Somerset County between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2006.

Grants of up to \$1,000 are awarded for special projects only and are not applicable for general operating support. Compared to the NJSCA Local Arts Program grant, this one is much easier to complete and most find the required cash match of only 20% very attractive. A letter of intent, advising the SCC&HC that your organization intends to apply for funding with a brief statement or two describing the proposed project and amount of funds requested, will be due to the SCC&HC office no later than November 1, 2005. All eligible organizations are encouraged to take advantage of this additional grant opportunity. Please note: Organizations that have applied for the NJSCA Local Arts Program this year are eligible to apply for the mini-grant as well.

Application and guidelines will be emailed upon request. Please direct your request to our Administrative Assistant, Cynthia Mellusi at 908-231-7110 between the hours of 9:00AM & 4:00PM, or send an email request to: Mellusi@co.somerset.nj.us. Once received you can download and work directly on the application at your own PC; print once completed; obtain required signatures; create required number of copies to submit; and mail or hand-deliver your application package to the Cultural & Heritage office by: November 28, 2005, no later than 4:00PM.

"Budgeting for Grants" workshops are available, presented by David Gray of Finance Arts, Inc. Wednesday, October 19, 6PM—8:30PM & Tuesday, October 25, 9AM—12:00 PM. Both will take place in the Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerset. Advance registration is required. To register, contact Cynthia Mellusi.

Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance SUNDAY BRUNCH SERIES

Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

November 6, 2005: A 2 p.m. tour of Buckelew Mansion, Jamesburg. Brunch at Fiddleheads in Jamesburg.

December 4, 2005: Christmas Cookie Exchange at the Indian Queen Tavern, East Jersey Olde Towne.

January 8, 2006: Prof. Reese Jenkins will speak on Thomas Edison's activities in Central New Jersey. Lunch will be at the Metuchen Inn.

February, 2006: To be announced.

March or early April, 2006: Press party for the RMHA Guidebook to be held at Johnson & Johnson.

May 7, 2006: University Archivist, Thomas Frusciano, will do a walking tour of the Old Queens Campus, "The Lore & Legend of Old Rutgers". Lunch to be announced.

June 23, 2006: "Einstein in Princeton," talk and tour with Gail Stern, director of the Historical Society of Princeton and Gillett Griffin, retired curator of Meso-American Art at the Princeton University Art Museum and an Einstein colleague. Lunch at the Nassau Inn.

HOLD THE DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006

THE RUTGERS HISTORY DEPARTMENT AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES, ANNOUNCE A ONE DAY SCHOLARLY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006. ENTITLED "GLOBALIZATION & INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, 1830-2005: NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ & THE RARITAN RIVER VALLEY, A MICROCOSM?", THE CONFERENCE CELEBRATES THE 325TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DISTINGUISHED NEW JERSEY HISTORIAN, DR. RICHARD P. MC CORMICK.

Papers by noted scholars and university students will examine the history of globalization as reflected in local industries. The conference will also feature exhibits highlighting regional industrial development and products. Conference packets will include a self-guided tour brochure of local industrial sites, bibliographies, sample documents and teachers' resource. The conference will be held in the Scholarly Communications Center on the fourth floor of the Alexander Library, 169 College Avenue. More information to follow.

Announcements

ARCHIVAL WORKSHOPS

Explore the world of archives from managing archival collections to preparing your organization for digitization. Learn about using church and county archives or the intricacies of preserving your archival collections. Sign up for one, two, or as many as you'd like. They're free and seats are still available!

October 19 - Microclimates and Enclosures

Place: Rutgers University, New Brunswick
Presenter: Tim Corlis, Head of Preservation, Special Collections & University Archives, Rutgers

October 31 - Learning to Drive: Preparing your institution and its collections for the New Jersey Digital Highway

Place: NJ State Records Center, Trenton
Presenter: Daniel W. Noonan, Supervisor, Electronic Records Management, Division of Archives & Records Management.

November 10 - County Archives: Reference Services

Place: Monmouth County Archives, Manalapan
Presenter: Gary Saretzky, Archivist, Monmouth County Archives

Visit the State Historical Records Advisory Board website for details, at www.njarchives.org/links/shrab.html.

Your Link to the Public

The Link is on a quarterly publication schedule, with copies distributed in February, May, September, and November. News of major upcoming events for possible placement in the newsletter may be mailed, emailed or faxed to the address below. Notices should reach the editor by the 5th day of the month previous to the publication date.

Catherine Bull, Editor, CRCG, 415 Cleveland Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904
cbull@crcg.net, 732-247-2888 fax, 732-247-8880 phone

ROCHAMBEAU SYMPOSIUM October 15, 2005

The latest historical findings on the march across New Jersey to Yorktown by Rochambeau's French army and the American armies under Washington's command will be presented Saturday, October 15, 2005, at Princeton University by Dr. Robert Selig. Crossroads of the American Revolution Association and Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route—NJ are jointly sponsoring this symposium to launch the 225th Anniversary celebration of the march to victory in 1781. Also speaking will be Dr. Jacques Bossiere, chairman of the W3R National Committee.

Although Rochambeau carefully recorded his march across New Jersey with detailed maps, Washington deliberately obscured his troop movements. His tactics to confuse the enemy have left the historical record confused as well. To unravel his routes and discover how the two generals coordinated their campaign, Dr. Selig has been extensively researching the fragmentary evidence that survives. He will be making the first public presentation of his findings at this symposium.

Tickets are \$25 including lunch. To register send to Crossroads of the American Revolution, Box 1364, Princeton, N.J. 08542. For further information call 732-721-1047.

Corrections to the 2005 Membership Directory

Apologies to the *Sayreville Historical Society* which is in Sayreville, not in Sayerville and to *Carol Kadi* who lives in Sayreville, not in Sayerville.

Contact info for the *Somerset County Historical Society* should be as follows:

Headquarters, Van Veghten House
9 Van Veghten Drive
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

Visit our web site at: schsnj.org.

Email us at: schs@earthlink.net.

Questions, call Dorothy Stratford, 732-356-6920.

Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Membership Application

Name: _____

Contact (if organization): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

\$30 ____ Individual \$30 ____ Site

Please make check payable to Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Please return: Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance, P.O. Box 5583, Somerset, NJ 08875-5583

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

The Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance is a group of Middlesex, Somerset and Mercer County sites, historical and eventful, located along the Raritan and Millstone Rivers. The Alliance works to help these sites preserve and promote their rich and eventful heritage and culture through educational and interpretive activities and materials; to promote, publicize, develop tours and programs of the historic resources along the River trails.

Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance
P. O. Box 5583
Somerset, NJ 08875-5583

