



# The Link

*joining the sites along the rivers*

Volume 8, Issue 1

**Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance**

Spring/Summer, 2006

## President's Message

### - New Board Members -

Welcome to new Board of Directors members Mary Bittrich, Harvey Brudner, Elizabeth Reeves, Joyce Smith, Shirley Smoyak, Kathryn Stryker and Jan ten Broeke. We appreciate your commitment to the Alliance.

### -Committees-

The Alliance welcomes your participation. We have revised our Committee structure (page 9 of this newsletter). Anyone interested in serving on a Committee, please contact the Committee Chair or me at 732-247-8880.

### - Board Meeting -

Please join us for the monthly Alliance Board meetings, the next of which will be on September 21, 2006 at the Barron Arts Center, Woodbridge.

### - Guidebook -

The new edition of the Guidebook is now available! Remember to support our advertisers.

### - RMHA Website -

If you haven't seen our new website, visit [www.raritanmillstone.org](http://www.raritanmillstone.org). The Guidebook, event calendar, previous issues of the Link, and links to other preservation organizations are all available on our site!

### -Welcome-

We have had 26 people join the Alliance in the last few months. A full list of individual members and member sites can be found on pages 7 & 8 of the newsletter.

- Peter A. Primavera

## THE HISTORIC PEACE CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 11, 1776

By

Donald Johnstone Peck

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

With the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 war had officially begun. But while the Declaration made clear the issue of individual liberties and freedoms from the King of Great Britain, by formal declaration, individual colonists still had to decide which was more important, their desire for independence or their loyalty to the mother country.

It had been Admiral Lord Richard Howe's sincere hope that peace with the Americans could be made. Commander of His Majesty's Atlantic Squadron and Member of Parliament, Howe helped engineer a possible peace agreement and was later appointed Acting Peace Commissioner by Lord North, Prime Minister of Great Britain. As early as January 1776, Lord Howe was charged to lead a peace commission. American allegiance was divided and Lord Howe knew that. In 1776 one third of the colonists wanted independence, one-third remained loyal and one-third remained neutral for a while, waiting to see what would happen.

By June 29, 1776 more than 100 of Lord Howe's transports from Halifax, Nova Scotia, had dropped anchor off Sandy Hook. As late as June 30 the great Province of New York would not instruct its delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence. Arriving eight days too late, on July 12, 1776, Lord Howe landed 15,000 troops on Staten Island to add to the forces already there under his brother, General Sir William Howe's command. By mid-August, a total of some 35,000 British troops, the largest British expeditionary force ever sent overseas until World War II, had landed on Staten Island.

The spectacle of thousands of mighty Redcoats drilling, with only the Arthur Kill between them and Perth Amboy, created panic.

**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**

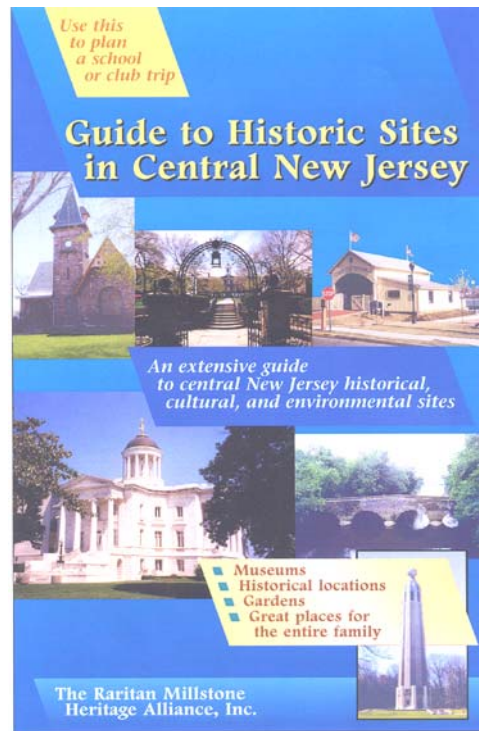
**President:** Peter A. Primavera  
**1st Vice President:** Ann Suydam  
**2nd Vice President:** Donald Peck  
**Secretary:** Sarah Israel  
**Treasurer:** Everett Zabriskie

**directors**

Rev. Everett Zabriskie  
Ann Suydam  
George Dawson  
Marilyn Rautio  
Donald Peck  
Dr. Paul Jennings  
Sarah Israel  
Michael Boylan  
Constance O'Grady  
Harvey Brudner  
Carol Natarelli  
Peter Primavera  
Mary Bittrich  
Elizabeth Reeves  
Joyce Smith  
John Allen  
Paula Henry  
Shirley Smoyak  
Jan ten Broeke  
Kathryn Strker

*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.*

## 2006 Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance Guide Book



The latest edition of the Guide to Historic Sites in Central New Jersey is now available. The Guide comprises listings for 141 historic, cultural, and environmental sites including libraries, museums, gardens, historic districts, and historic houses throughout Middlesex, Somerset, and Mercer Counties.

Copies are available at many member sites and area locations. If you would like a copy sent to you, please forward \$2 to cover postage to RMHA, PO Box 5583, Somerset, N.J. 08873-5583. For more information, contact the Link editor or email us at [info@raritanmillstone.org](mailto:info@raritanmillstone.org). Encourage your friends and family to pick up a Guide and explore our shared heritage!





### **Conference House, Staten Island, NY**

Washington, under Brigadier General Hugh Mercer, by June 1776 had hastily organized a “Flying Camp” at Perth Amboy with 1200 New Jersey militiamen as well as militia from Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland to guard against a British movement into New Jersey. Shortly after the arrest of Royal Governor William Franklin, General Mercer made the Proprietary House at Amboy his headquarters.

General Mercer endured countless frustrations as he sought to organize his command. Militia companies came and went almost daily with the result that no orderly troop disposition could be made. As the weeks dragged on without the anticipated attack, the men became restless and clamored to return to their homes. By July 20 most of the New Jersey troops had been temporarily excused to harvest hay in their sun-baked fields.

Lord Howe, affectionately known as “Black Dick” and more ominous than his brother William, held off invading Perth Amboy. His goal was to secure New York and possibly make peace. Perth Amboy Patriots used the steeple of St. Peter’s Church (the oldest Anglican parish in New Jersey, founded in 1685) as a watchtower to keep tabs on British and Tory activity across the Arthur Kill on Staten Island.

Early in the war the “Flying Camp” militiamen planted an 18 pounder (cannon) between the breastworks in St. Peter’s churchyard and opened fire on a nearby British tug-of-war vessel. The British frigate replied by breaking the gravestone of Captain William Bryant, a fragment of which can still be seen in the churchyard.

Here at Historic Old St. Peter’s Church (in a less stressful time) Royal Governor and Lady Franklin were provided with a private pew, as was the custom of those times. They presented hand embroidered linen and hangings for the pulpit, reading desk and altar together with matching cushions made by Lady Franklin. Here they received the Holy Communion from the hand wrought chalice and paten cover of communion silver which the church had received as a gift from Queen Anne about 1706. (It is marked “Annae Reginae, made by William Gibson, Corey Lane, London.” Gibson first registered his mark April 1697.)

While two-thirds of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Anglican, as a group Anglicans were by far the least patriotic segment of the colonial population. The church’s connection to the British establishment had all but demolished it when the colonies fought that very establishment. An incredible total of 70,000 Anglicans fled the colonies during the war or immediately thereafter. The more prominent a citizen – merchant, landowner, or royal official – the more likely he was to leave the uncertain new nation for England or Canada. Anglicanism all but disappeared as a major religion though it still held the allegiance of a small minority – the oldest, proudest and richest families in the country.

In a decisive move to impress upon George Washington and his Continental soldiers the need to negotiate a peaceful settlement, the Howes, on August 22 landed 15,000 British troops near the narrows of Long Island. On August 27 the British and Americans fought the Battle of Long Island (the first great battle of the war and the first colossal defeat for

the Continental Army) with Washington withdrawing his army of 9,500 men to Manhattan. The Battle of Long Island had been the largest battle ever fought in North America. Counting both armies and the Royal Navy, more than 40,000 men had taken part in it.

Not eager to cause further American bloodshed, Lord Howe held out the “olive branch” of peace as well as the sword. The King had given him authority to issue pardon to all rebellious Americans who would remain “in peaceable obedience” to the King.

One of several historic stained glass windows (made by Kempe & Company of London) in St. Peter’s Church, Perth Amboy, portrays the Peace Conference of September 11, 1776. The American Commissions crossed over the Arthur Kill to Staten Island near the site of this church. Lord Howe had chosen the Billopp House at Tottenville, Staten Island, surrounded with his troops tented on the property, for the only face-to-face meeting between the British and Americans.

One of colonial New York’s most unusual residences, Captain Christopher Billopp’s magnificent grand stone manor, “the manor of Bentley,” circa 1685, is markedly different both in style and scale from the scattered Dutch and English farmhouses on Staten Island. Built by Scottish stonemasons from Perth Amboy, this ancient-looking fieldstone residence, impressively bold in appearance, is characteristic of the medieval influence on some early colonial architecture. In keeping with his role as a leading member of New York’s provincial government and as an expression of his massive wealth, it is an important symbol of the stability of the colonies. Restored, it is filled with eighteenth century pieces and exhibitions of life in colonial times.

Directly across the Arthur Kill from Perth Amboy, on a slight rise looking out onto Raritan Bay, this national and New York City landmark is the lone survivor of seventeenth century buildings still standing in New York City and the only surviving monument to the manor life of America’s seventeenth century. This tide-water residence, an outstanding representative of the best of colonial architecture, is the centerpiece of the 226-acre Conference House Park, located in the southernmost tip of Tottenville, and recalls Staten Island’s rural and maritime past as well as its place in American history.

Surrounded by a forest-rich ecosystem, a natural home for migrating birds, the park’s coastline is a great place to enjoy spectacular marine views of open sky, cloud formations, the Great Beds Lighthouse and the sunset. A short distance from the Mount Loretto State Nature

Preserve, featuring stunning vistas from natural red clay cliff bluffs, its dark sandy shore gives way to cobblestone-sized glacial rocks at the water’s edge.

Wednesday, September 11, 1776, the American Committee of Adams, Franklin and Rutledge departed New Brunswick and the Indian Queen Tavern enroute for Perth Amboy. As arranged, the Americans were met by Lord Howe’s red-and-gilt barge at the foot of Smith Street. After crossing the Arthur Kill, they were escorted up the great south lawn of Billopp House by Lord Howe between lines of guards of grenadiers. Following a half-hour lunch, the table was cleared and the conference began.

Lord Howe must have thought, “What are these traitors thinking about? Do they really think that they can succeed against the might of the world’s most powerful nation?” And in the minds of the three great Americans there must have been the thought “perhaps the American experiences described in the Declaration of Independence that ‘governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed’ and that they have the power to absolve themselves from all allegiance to the British Crown was foreign to the Howes.” We don’t know.

However, 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.” Howe’s failure to recognize American independence was the immediate cause of the breakdown of their meeting, long after referred to as the “Abortive Peace Conference.”

Turning to Franklin and Rutledge, Howe then remarked, “Mr. Adams is a decided character.” Many years later Adams would better understand the gloomy look on Howe’s face. He learned that before leaving London, Howe had been given a list of those American rebels who were to be granted pardons and those who were not. John Adams was to be hanged.

On September 12 Washington’s war council decided to abandon New York City. By September 15 the British had landed at Kip’s Bay and routed a small force of American militia. The American army fled to Harlem as

the British occupied New York City. On October 12 the British landed 4000 men on Throg's Neck but were stopped by American riflemen. Then on October 18 Washington withdrew his main army to White Plains while Howe removed his forces from Throg's Neck and made a swift landing at Pell's Point engaging the Americans in the Battle of White Plains on October 28.

From there Washington's forces moved to North Castle crossing the Hudson at King's Ferry on November 12, arriving in Haverstraw, New York. From there they moved on to Fort Lee, New Jersey, by November 13. The ominous truth had been that without sea power New York had been indefensible. John Adams' description of New York as "a kind of key to the whole continent" had been anything but ambiguous.

Unforeseen by both the Howes and the Americans on September 11, 1776 would be the two brilliant victories over the British troops on Christmas night, 1776 at Trenton and eight days later at Princeton. By the spring of 1778 a new commander-in-chief of the British forces in America, Sir Henry Clinton, would replace the Howes. But it wouldn't be until the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 (largely drafted by Benjamin Franklin) that His Britannic Majesty, King George III, would acknowledge the thirteen states "to be free, sovereign, and independent States."



## African American Symposium DVD Available

Copies of the DVD from the African American Symposium held on October 1, 2005 are available for sale for \$25. The subject of the symposium was the Role of the African American in the American Revolution & Genealogical Workshop. The program included Dr. Giles Wright speaking on *Black New Jerseyans and the American Revolutionary War*, Fred Minus's dramatic account of the *The Testimony of Samuel Sutphin*, Arthur Lefkowitz's presentation on William Lee, Washington's personal bodyguard throughout the war, and Michael Boylan's presentation of Middlesex County Cultural & Heritage Commission's traveling trunk "Time of Turmoil" which detailed the experience of Private Oliver Cromwell, an African American soldier.

NJ State DAR Registrar Karen Stroeever conducted a Genealogical Workshop and Hollis Gentry spoke on black genealogy from 1850 back to the Revolutionary era.

For information, please contact Marjorie Freeman at 732-329-2103.

The Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance regrets the passing of two members this spring.

Betty Scott served on the Board of the Alliance for eight years. She was an active volunteer with many area organizations including East Jersey Olde Towne, the Metlar/Bodine House Museum, and the Meadows Foundation. A long-time resident of Franklin and an avid historian, she researched and wrote on several topics of local significance including the historic Dutch homes in Franklin and the history of Franklin's founding families.

Harold H. "Biff" Heins, Jr. lived most of his life in the Blackwells Mills sections of Somerset. Over the years, he gained wide recognition for his watercolors and oils and his work is well represented in many private and corporate collections. He was also accomplished in the restoration of antique furniture. The Alliance is fortunate to have Biff's design of the confluence of the Raritan and Millstone Rivers as the Link newsletter header.

**SUNDAY SERIES**

**RARITAN-MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE**  
Presents

**MUSICK FROM THE AGE OF JEFFERSON**  
**By**  
**THE PRACTITIONERS OF MUSICK**

**Sunday, September 24, 2006**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**Hillsborough Reformed Church**  
**1 Amwell Road (Corner Amwell and Millstone River Roads)**  
**Millstone, N.J. 08844**  
**The Reverend Fred Muller, Pastor**  
**Phone 908-359-3391**

An entertainment of music with commentary on Mr. Jefferson's musical world will include works by George Frideric Handel, James Oswald, Robert Bremmer, James Hook, Francis Hopkinson, Benjamin Carr, as well as airs from the theatres of Williamsburg and Philadelphia.

The Practitioners of Musick was founded by Eugene Roan and John Burkhalter to survey the musical riches of Great Britain & Ireland, as well as the Colonial and early federal periods in Americas. Recent research has focused attention on the world of music in New France from 1660 until the fall of Quebec in 1759.

Eugene Road is Professor Emeritus and former Chair of the organ, harpsichord and piano department at Westminster Choir College of Rider University. A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and Westminster Choir College, he has also studied at The School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary in New York City. His teachers were Alexander McCurdy and Alec Wyton.

John Burkhalter studied the performance of early music at The New England Conservatory of Music in Boston with Daniel Pinkham, and participated in the now "famed" Baroque music performance seminar led by the distinguished Dutch recorder virtuoso, conductor and scholar Frans Bruggen at Harvard University.

Reception with light refreshments to follow in adjacent hall.

A suggested donation of \$10.00 at the time of the concert will benefit the publication of the RMHA "Guide to Historic Sites in Central New Jersey."  
Make checks payable to RMHA.

**Paid Memberships - Sites  
as of June, 2006**

1. Abraham Staats House, Inc., Friends of
2. Alexander Library, Rutgers University
3. American Hungarian Foundation/Hungarian Heritage Center
4. Blackwell Mills Canal House
5. Buccleuch Mansion Museum
6. Christ Church, New Brunswick
7. City of Perth Amboy
8. Cornelius Low House
9. Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society
10. David Sarnoff Library-Museum
11. Douglas College Alumnae Associates
12. Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University
13. East Brunswick Historical Society
14. East Brunswick Museum Corp.
15. East Jersey Olde Towne, Inc.
16. East Jersey Olde Towne Village
17. Fellowship for Metlar House
18. First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
19. First Reformed Church of New Brunswick
20. Franklin Inn
21. Franklin Township Public Library
22. Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House
23. Friends of the Modern School
24. Griggstown Historical Society
25. Heritage Trail Association—Van Horne House
26. Historic Morven
27. Historical Society of Princeton
28. Hillsborough Reformed Church
29. Jamesburg Historical Society - Lakeview
30. Johnson & Johnson
31. Joyce Kilmer Centennial Commission
32. Marconi Foundation
33. Middlesex County Dept. of Parks & Recreation
34. Millstone Historic District
35. Nassau Inn
36. Nassau Presbyterian Church
37. New Brunswick Historical Association
38. New Brunswick Historical Society
39. New Brunswick Theological Seminary
40. O' Connor's Beef 'N' Chowder House
41. Old Millstone Forge Association
42. Piscataway Historical & Heritage Society
43. Piscataway Historical Preservation Advisory Commission
44. Princeton Cemetery
45. Princeton Theological Seminary
46. Proprietary House Association
47. Rocky Hill Community Group
48. Raritan Yacht Club
49. Rockingham Association
50. Rutgers Preparatory School
51. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
52. Sayreville Historical Society
53. Six Mile Run Reformed Church
54. Somerset County Historical Society
55. Somerset County Parks Commission
56. South River Historical & Preservation Society
57. St. Peter's Episcopal Church
58. Suydam Farms
59. The Conference House
60. The Frog and The Peach
61. The Reformed Church of Bound Brook
62. Trinity Episcopal Church
63. United States Golf Association Museum & Archive
64. Van Harlingen Historical Society
65. Washington Campground Association
66. Widow Woods Tavern—Century 21 Barrood Realty

## Paid Memberships - Individuals as of June, 2006

1. William H. Ainslie, M.D.
2. Nancy and John Allen
3. Joan Aronson
4. Charles & Ellen Barker
5. Linda & Robert Barth
6. Mary Bittrich
7. Nan & Michael Blecker
8. Marie & Jim Borbely
9. Jane Brady
10. Rev. Wayne Brady
11. Helen Bragg
12. Harvey Brudner
13. Maria I. Cisyk
14. Joel Compton
15. Ione & John Connolly
16. Margaret Bascom Cron
17. Hope Danzis
18. George Dawson
19. Joseph Deegan
20. Mary B. Deegan
21. Kathleen DePouw
22. Carlton Dilatush
23. John M. Dudas
24. Betty & Carlton Durling
25. Patricia Ferrara
26. Doris Fenske
27. Eunice & Davis Folkerts
28. Marjorie & Bruce Freeman
29. Rhonda S. Freidman
30. Anne Gordon
31. Bonita Craft Grant
32. Patricia & Horace Greeley
33. Marianne DeNooyer Hageman
34. Ginna & Ralph Harder
35. Joyce Harrison
36. Regina B. Heldrich
37. Patricia Hill
38. Judith Hoffman
39. Barbara Howard
40. Sarah Israel
41. Marnie Jeney
42. Elyce Jennings
43. Paul Jennings, M.D.
44. Carol Kadi
45. John and Kate Keithler
46. Robert C. Kocheck
47. Eleanor Kuebler
48. William Lynch
49. Gardina Wyckoff Armstrong Lipman
50. Catharine Loughran
51. Francis J. Lutz
52. Walter Lieb
53. S. L. Macy
54. Mary Marschall
55. Rosemarie & Joe Mazzeo
56. Katheryne McCormick
57. Gloria Lee Meyer
58. Dr. Albert Mussad
59. Carol Natarelli
60. Barbara Northrup
61. Constance O'Grady
62. Marianne Oross
63. Portia Y. Orton
64. Donald Peck
65. Peter Primavera
66. M. Clausen Rauch
67. Joseph Rauch
68. Marilyn Rautio
69. Elizabeth Reeves
70. Christine Retz
71. Alvin J. Rockoff
72. Bethany Rocque-Romaine
73. Marianne & Robert Rossenwasser
74. Junelynn Sadlowski
75. Douglas Sandor
76. Bill Scott
77. Alice Sengstack
78. Cornelius & Dr. Shirley Smoyak
79. Dorothy Snedeker
80. Brynne Johnson Solowinski
81. John Solowinski
82. Kathryn Stryker
83. Ann & J. Abram Suydam
84. Bruce Taylor
85. Jan ten Broeke
86. Ruth & Eugene Varney
87. Ralph Voorhees
88. Barbara Westergaard
89. Bert Wolf
90. Everett L. Zabriskie III
91. Barbara Zonino



**RARITAN MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE**  
**STANDING AND AD HOC COMMITTEES**

**1) NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chair: Paula Henry  
Marilyn Rautio, George Dawson

**2) FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair: Rett Zabriskie (Retired – need replacement ASAP)  
Peter Primavera, Donald Peck

**3) PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

Chair: Elizabeth Reeves  
Christine Retz, Donald Peck, Ann Suydam, John Allen, E. Jennings

**4) DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Chair : Peter Primavera

Membership (includes Annual Meeting) - Chair: Carol Natarelli, Vice-Chair: Sarah Israel  
Marilyn Rautio, Ann Suydam, Connie O'Grady, Marjorie Freeman

Public Relations (includes Calendar) - Chair: Pete Jennings, Vice-Chair: George Dawson  
Calendar - Marilyn Rautio, assisted by P. Primavera, C. Bull

Fundraising (includes Awards Committee) - Chair: Shirley Smoyak, Vice-Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathryn Stryker

**5) AD HOC COMMITTEES**

Guide Book - Chair: Peter Primavera, Vice-Chair in charge of distribution: John Allen

Publications - Chair: \_\_\_\_\_, Vice-Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan ten Broeke, Shirley Smoyak, Marjorie Freeman, George Dawson

Link - Catherine Bull (Need Chair and Vice-Chair)

Web Site - Peter Primavera

Membership Directory -

## ANNUAL BOARD MEETING APRIL 20, 2006



George J. Hill, M.D., D. Litt

The Alliance's Annual Board Meeting was held at The Frog and The Peach in New Brunswick. We were pleased to have as guest speaker Dr. George Hill of West Orange, a retired physician-surgeon with over 40 years of medical experience in various states, and overseas in Latin America and Southeast Asia. Dr. Hill gave an informative and entertaining talk describing the evolution of the practice of medicine in colonial America, with particular reference to New Jersey practice, and progress through the ensuing centuries.

We acknowledged the resignations of Board members Bruce Freeman, Marjorie K. Freeman, and Marjorie Watson, and we welcomed new Board members Mary Bittrich, Harvey Brudner, Elizabeth Reeves, Joyce Smith, Shirley Smoyak, Kathryn Stryker and Jan ten Broeke. Donald J. Peck was elected to fill the new position of Second Vice President. His duties will include attendance at all meetings of the Standing Committees. He will report to and make recommendations to the President and the Executive Committee. The new Vice-President will also be in line to become the next President.

President Peter Primavera noted that the new year will bring the establishment of regular Executive Committee meetings and fewer meetings of the full Board. He noted that the future success of the organization will be based on the broader participation of Board members and of the general Alliance membership, and communication and cooperation with other regional organizations.

## Adoption of Mission Statement

At the meeting of May 18, 2006, the Alliance Board of Directors approved revisions to the organization's mission statement. The following is the revised text:

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance consists of committed individuals and organizations representing sites within the region of the Raritan and Millstone River systems.

In an area that has continually contributed to the strength of the United States, we seek, through our programs, to promote, protect and preserve an understanding of our rich historical, cultural and educational heritage as we work to be a model for current and future generations by promoting the rich heritage of our American society.

## 2006 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

### September 21, 2006

Barron Art Center  
582 Rahway Avenue, Woodbridge, NJ

The Barron Arts Center is a public arts facility housed in a magnificent Romanesque Revival building. Thomas Barron, a wealthy businessman and Woodbridge native, bequeathed \$50,000 for the establishment of a library and public reading room. J. Cleveland Cady, a student of H. H. Richardson, served as the architect for the structure which was built in 1877 as the Barron Library. After a century, the library closed and the property was deeded to the town for use as an arts center.

### October 19, 2006

Suydam Farms  
1803 Route 27 and Skillman Lane, Somerset, NJ

Moving to Somerset County in 1713, the Suydams were diversified farmers. Milk and crops were sold to shops in new Brunswick and loaded into barges bound for New York City. The farm evolved over the years to high production Brown Swiss dairy cows in the mid-20th century. Now in 2005, the farm hosts its 13th generation of Suydams in America. It is one of the last production farms on Route 27 between New Brunswick and Princeton.

*all meetings start at 1:30 unless otherwise announced*

## Announcements

### D & R Canal State Park Headquarters Dedication Day

By Jeanette K. Muser

The official opening and dedication of the new D & R Canal State Park Headquarters, the Mapleton Preserve and the Flemer Arboretum was timed to National Arbor Day – always the last Friday in April. Not only did the Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> event call public attention to the trees and woodlands on the 52.9 acre Mapleton Preserve at South Brunswick property but also to the former Princeton Nurseries business which at one time encompassed 1,500 acres at this location. This nationally recognized nursery introduced several new varieties of trees and plants as well as innovative horticultural practices and technologies.

The new location of the D & R Canal State Park Headquarters adds to the park mission of interpreting nature and the environment, colonial history to the present and transportation changes in the inland waterways and railways of central New Jersey. Located adjacent to the Kingston Historic District, the headquarters is now at the mid – point of the main canal which is one of the most popular areas of this regional linear park. The Rockingham State Historic Site farmstead, the Cook Natural Area and Lake Carnegie are also nearby. Hiker, bikers, nature-lovers, bird watchers, history buffs, photographers, canoe and kayak fans and canal lovers of all ages can enjoy an array of activities!

Check out the canal website at [www.dandrcanal.com](http://www.dandrcanal.com) or phone the Headquarters at 609 – 924 –5705 to receive “The Milepost’ newsletter of events.

#### 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. Any questions, please contact: Catherine Bull, Editor, CRCG, 415 Cleveland Avenue, Highland Park, NJ 08904  
[cbull@crcg.net](mailto:cbull@crcg.net)  
732-247-2888 fax  
732-247-8880 phone

Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

### SUNDAY SERIES

Fall 2006

### U. S. Presidents in New Jersey

**September 24, 2006:**

3:00 pm Music from the Age of Jefferson, by the Practitioners of Musick. Hillsborough Reformed Church, Millstone, N.J. Reception with light refreshments to follow. Suggested donation of \$10.

Other events to follow in October, November, January, and February. Check our website for more information, [www.raritanmillstone.org](http://www.raritanmillstone.org).

### SUNDAY SERIES MAY 7, 2006

Brunch at Old Man Rafferty's  
Walking tour of Old Queen's Campus  
Rutgers University, New Brunswick



A large group of RMHA members and others from the greater New Brunswick area toured Old Queens campus with distinguished guest tour director, Thomas J. Frusciano, University Archivist, Rutgers University.

Highlights of the tour included Old Queens, Van Nest Hall, Schanck Observatory, Geology Hall, Kirkpatrick Chapel and a variety of buildings on the Voorhees Campus. Tour proceeds benefited the RMHA “Guide to Historic Sites in Central New Jersey.”

# 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 consists of committed individuals and organizations representing sites within the region of the Raritan and Millstone River systems. In an area that has continually contributed to the strength of the United States, we seek, through our programs, to promote, protect and preserve an understanding of our rich historical, cultural and educational heritage as we work to be a model for current and future generations by promoting the rich heritage of our American society.

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

