

STUBEN HOUSE ON RIVER EDGE'S NO. 1 LANDMARK

Built In 1751, It Stands
As Monument Of Town's
Part In Revolution

WASHINGTON THERE

The historic Von Steuben House in the New Bridge section of River Edge, now the home of the Bergen County Historical Society, was built in 1751 by John and Peter Zabriskie millers, to accommodate their families. As the mansion is situated near the first bridge to span the Hackensack River, the area became a focal point of the Hudson Valley campaign during the Revolution.

Washington made his headquarters there in 1780 and his men used the bridge for the famous retreat across New Jersey.

As the Zabriskie brothers were Tory sympathizers their house was confiscated by the Colonies and deeded to Baron Von Steuben in

1783 in recognition of his services in the Revolutionary War.

Baron Von Steuben, who died in 1794 at his home in Steubenville, N. Y., was born in Magdeburg, Prussia, on Sept. 17, 1730. He secured his early training in the Army of Frederick the Great rising to

Military prominence in the Seven Years War.

He sailed in 1777 to join the Colonists under Washington and reported to Washington at Valley Forge. After training the troops into a sort of military order, Von Steuben served in the Battle of Monmouth and was first commander of the Army of Virginia.

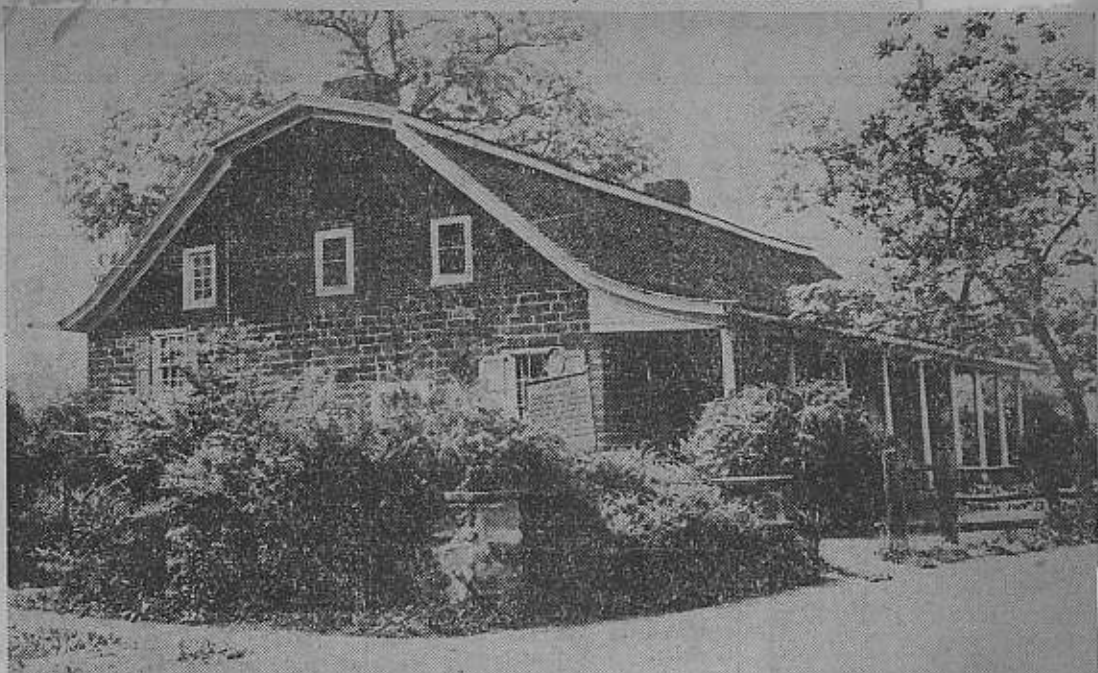
There is some controversy as to whether the Baron lived in the famous house. However, three months after he received the deed he was forced to sell it back to

the Zabriskies for \$1600 because of financial difficulties.

The house is Dutch Colonial with 11 rooms. The eaves project rather far at the gable ends and the gables are brick instead of shingle. In the west wall is the Zabriskie emblem, a square plaque carved with a symbol of their mill wheel and names and date of erection.

A W. P. A. Grant of \$15,000 was granted in May, 1938 to restore the house as a permanent historical shrine in New Jersey and work started in June of that year.

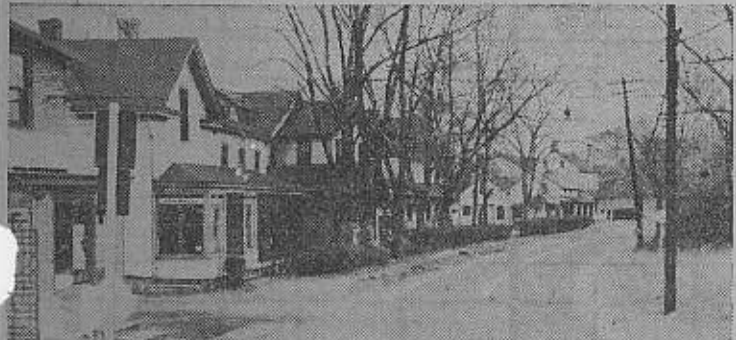
THE STEUBEN HOUSE, FAMED LANDMARK



Patriots Fought British Right On Bridge Which Crosses River Near Hallowed Spot



Many artists have painted this historic Steuben House but there seem to be few photo salon prints available. The building houses many interesting objects of the Colonial period.



This hamlet along the winding New Bridge Road is one of the scenic spots of Bergen County.



The modern bridge at the left of the picture is on the site of the Revolutionary bridge. The grist mill grinding stone, now fitted as a picnic table was found in an old mill on the Hackensack River.

A Blacksmith Shop Now Stands Where Lee Started Expedition In 1779, And Green Hit British

By CHARLES A. ROTH

Staff Photographer, Bergen Evening Record

EACH day as the late afternoon hour approaches, a large number of cars containing women shoppers from Hackensack, and later the workers from the offices and shops roll over the winding road known as Newbridge Road. This road weaves and bends through one of the many historic spots common to Bergen County.

By following this Newbridge Road that starts in North Hackensack, one of the first objects we meet is the historic Steuben House. The long, low, Dutch colonial dwelling has the typical gambrel roof that forms an overhang sheltering the front porch.

The rough surfaced stone dwelling with two front doors to accommodate the families of John and Peter Zabriskie was confiscated from Tory owners during the Revolution and given to General von Steuben in 1783 as a reward for military service.

For many years the house lay idle and empty, but finally, the State of New Jersey through the Historic Sites Commission restored the building to its present state.

The Bergen County Historical Society have made this their headquarters and placed a fine collection of furnishings and historic treasures on exhibition here.

An interesting feature is the old Dutch fireplace and oven in the kitchen of the house. Both inside and out is a wealth of material for the camera worker.

The Hackensack River, crossed at the same spot as the old original bridge by a modern structure takes us across the stream through a quaint homey village. Newbridge Road with its many bends leads us further on, to one of the few remaining blacksmith's forges in the county. The rap of his hammer on the anvil can be heard as we approach.

Blacksmith forges are interesting

and picturesque objects and this one is no exception. As we retrace our steps back toward Hackensack, we notice a bronze plaque at the west side of the bridge approach; the following words give us a concise history of what took place here: "Washington's rear guard under Green held the bridge in the retreat of 1776. Burr attacked the British here in 1777, and Lee's expedition against Paulus Hook started from here in 1779. Bridge crossed often by both armies during the Revolution."

THE STEUBEN HOUSE AND HISTORY

Historical Society Completes Work Of Setting Up Exhibition In Old Home; Fence, Old Well Are Constructed

By CHARLES A. ROTH

(Staff Photographer—Bergen Evening Record)

HISTORY is a subject that ties itself in with many other useful activities. For years the Bergen County Historical Society has collected many fine specimens of articles connected with Bergen County history. They were then located in the top floor of the Johnson Library.

The Steuben House had just been renovated when the president, Francis Koehler, hit on the idea of moving the material from the Historical Museum in the library and arranging it in the Steuben House.

WORK COMPLETED

This is now completed and has been steadily improved on, until now the Steuben House has a very interesting arrangement of historical objects relative to Bergen County history. This material has been assembled into historical sequence.

The Society then thought it would be in keeping with the interior exhibits to have a typical American post and rail fence erected in front of the house. This job was completed as a W. P. A. project, and gives a fine setting to the front of the house.

Colonial homes were built in areas where wells might be sunk to obtain a water supply. Various types of bucket equipment were used. Here in Bergen County the boom type was very common. Today they are almost extinct. The Historical Society set about to erect such a type of well on the site of an old well. A search for a suitable crotched tree to serve as principle timber for a well sweep was made. A locust tree was finally located on property less than 100 feet from the well. It was cut and seasoned for over a year, and then the bark stripped off before setting it in place.

Old Fashioned boom and sweep well at the Steuben House marks an epoch of the water supply history of the County.

Next a boom was found on a hay wagon in the barn of John M. Myers of Woodcliff Lake. An old grindstone was used as a counter weight



The "post and rail fence", in front of the Steuben House historical museum completes a picture of colonial days.

and "the iron-bound bucket" was furnished by Romaine. A sketch was drawn and approved by the Society.

A very fine assembly job has produced a second outdoor exhibit on the grounds. The interior of the house is completed, and many visitors are guided through by Clayton B. Ferry, the caretaker. This interior collection includes a Dutch kitchen and all the appurtenances. There are also exhibits of chinaware of the early days.

New Jersey produces potteryware as an industry. Rutgers University has a ceramic course included in its curriculum. Bergen County can be counted as one of the leaders in this because Geo. W. Wolfkiel

produced a special type of early pottery at his ovens on the Hackensack River in 1830. This was a sturdy type of pottery, with many articles included in the exhibit. This Steuben House museum proves what can be accomplished by rehabilitating an old historical site.

Camera Notes And News

THE camera quiz organized for the March meeting of the Teaneck Camera Club was well attended. Fifty-two prints were entered in the monthly competition. Art Strahlendorff won first and second in class "A" and in portraits. Carl Ziegfeld won third in class "A". Chris Flaherty was third in portraits. At the April 4 meeting of the club the Teaneck aggregation has invited the clubs in Bergen County to attend and hear John Doscher deliver an important lecture.

Ira W. Martin will be the speaker March 20 instead of Walter E. Owen at the Fictorial Photograph-

schneider, past president, opened his address with a discussion of several important legal aspects of photography. Many interesting phases developed as the members asked questions. He then followed with a description of his experiences in gold toning processes.

According to Riemenschneider, in order to procure best results, only certain types of printing paper may be used. He also spoke of the trends in the selection of prints hung at some of the salons and pointed out that the largest percentage hung at the Rochester salon of 1945 were of a 16 x 20 size. The smaller sizes such as 8 x 10 and 11 x 14 were successively smaller.

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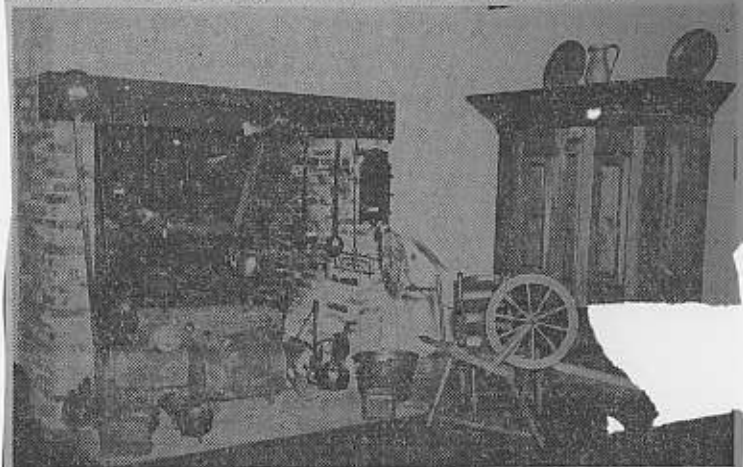
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Ira W. Martin will be the speaker March 20 instead of Walter E. Owen at the Pictorial Photographers of America meeting at the Architectural League, N. Y. C. Mr. Owen will be heard at the April 17 meeting.

Maywood Camera Club held its meeting Wednesday. Otto Riemen-

schneider, past president, opened his address with a discussion of several important legal aspects of photography. Many interesting phases developed; the members asked questions. He then followed with a description of his experiences in gold toning processes.

According to Riemenschneider, in order to procure best results, only certain types of printing paper may be used. He also spoke of the trends in the selection of prints hung at some of the sales and pointed out that the largest percentage hung at the Rochdale salon of 1945 were of a 16 x 20 size. The smaller sizes such as 8 x 10 and 11 x 14 were successively smaller in the number selected. He suggested that not only was this a hardship on most workers but with the present shortage of paper many are forced to stay out. The matter of print size seems to be more important than artistic results.



Dutch oven and fireplace with a cabinet from Holland completes the colonial kitchen. Various articles of cooking equipment were furnished by the old families of Bergen County.

fashioned boom and sweep the Steuben House marks the site of the water supply in Bergen County.

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best
after
size.
tip