



IN BERGEN'S ATTIC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings fellow members and I hope you are doing well. The beauty of autumn and the success of Harvest Homecoming and Baronfest have led us into the holiday season of friendship, sharing, thanks and generosity. We are thankful for our dedicated volunteers and members and to all our

Please check the website often, follow us on facebook and email blasts to stay informed of our upcoming programming and events.

Our exciting plans to build a new museum and hall of history are moving forward and will add to our visitor's experience with increased space for exhibits, lectures, a controlled environment for museum collections and improved facilities such as ADA compliant restrooms. We look forward to accommodating larger audiences for concerts, lectures, special exhibits, the School of Interpretation and author presentations as we explore Bergen County's history. We rely on our members and the public for support and the necessary fundraising needed to to complete this important addition to the museum site.

We are very grateful to those who have donated and ask that you will consider future donations and help us to reach other donors. As you drive by HNBL on New Bridge Rd. in River Edge, you will see our new fundraising thermometer. We are more than half-way there! The permit process is nearing the final stages and the push is on to start construction. We can't do this alone. Please send us donor contact information to JohnEiel@yahoo.com or me at eventsBCHS@gmail.com and we will follow up with a promotional packet and letter that can be customized as needed.

Thank you and we wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

- Carol Restivo, BCHS President

WATCH THE BARN MUSEUM FUND-RAISING THERMOMETER AT THE CORNER OF NEW BRIDGE ROAD AND MAIN STREET.



visitors whose interest in our Bergen County History brings them to Historic New Bridge Landing which allows us all to learn and imagine what life was like for our strong, hardworking forebearers in the struggles of life in a new land and achieving independence as a new nation.

The BCHS has depended on flexibility and creativity throughout the COVID pandemic to continue having activities and welcome visitors to the site.

Bergen Residents Save Historic House

JANET ODENCE
PAST PRESIDENT



Remembering a graduation, first job, or first car can bring pleasant memories through the years. Remembering walking with a 183-ton house across a bridge with maximum weight limit of 36 tons brings back feelings of panic.

Forty-four years ago, September 27, 1977, that was me crossing the New Bridge Road bridge, over the Hackensack River, with the Campbell-Christie House. Several months of planning, anxiety, disappointments, and surprises led to the four-hour trip from New Milford to its new home in River Edge on the Bergen County Historical Society property for this beautiful historic house.

The CC house stood at the corner of River Road and Henley Avenue for 203

years – February 1977 local newspaper announced “demolition crane” headed for the house. A developer from Cherry Hill presented a site plan to the New Milford Planning Board to build a Hudson City Savings Bank and a WaWa after demolishing the house. During the next six months articles appeared in numerous local papers tracking the dismal fate of this pre-Revolutionary sandstone house.

In addition to New Milford residents and high school students, Bergen County residents, historical societies, and business owners met to develop ideas to keep the house on the New Milford property. Among the ideas was having the house converted to use as a bank and build the WaWa next to the CC house. With these ideas not acceptable, dismantling the house and putting it in storage or moving the house were the last two options to avert the house from demolition.

The house appeared on a 1774 map of Bergen County as belonging to farmer

Jacob Campbell. Now the pressure was on to map plans for the future residence of this historic treasure. April and May 1977 brought support from many sources; Rockleigh’s historical district, Teaneck offered a spot in Brett Park, New Milford offered borough-owned land near Borough Hall, and land on Marion Avenue near New Milford Middle School. In April the Campbell-Christie Historical Society was formed and incorporated. The group was continuing the work of the New Milford Bicentennial Committee which tried to get an ordinance passed in 1976 to protect the house.

Reality hit on May 24, 1977, when the Planning Board unanimously gave approval for the developer to proceed with his development project. The approval was granted with the guarantee that the house would not be disturbed for four months. Four months to raise the estimated \$150,000 needed to move the house. The historical societies did not have the funds. Desperate, the local society planned a cake sale, how many cupcakes needed to be sold to raise that much money? Behind the scenes, then Freeholder D. Bennett Mazur was hard at work to find the funds to save the house. To complicate matters, the house suffered roof and attic damage due to a fire on June 22nd. Relief came when then BCHS president, Marden Nystrom, and Freeholder Mazur announced the agreement to move the house, in September, in time to avoid the four-month deadline. Freeholders will lease the land on Society property, fund the move, build the foundation, install utilities, own the house and lease to BCHS. [BCHS leases footprint to County of Bergen.]

Now it was time to celebrate! The CCHS planned a Colonial Craft Day, Rev War reenactment, and a parade with a Christie fire engine designed by J.

Walter Christie, who was born in the house, the weekend of August 20th. We knew it was real when The New York Times headline on August 21st announced “Bergen Residents Save Historic House.” September 17th was fast approaching; professionals had been hired to prepare and move the house. Albin Rothe, Ramsey architect who specialized in historic buildings and nine men from C. Van Howling and Sons Building and Moving Company of Wallington turned the house into a roofless stone rectangle. As the roof beams were removed, they were numbered to make reassembly possible. Their removal revealed 18th century construction of hand-hewed beams and nails. The crew dug a 10-foot-wide perimeter around the house to make room to drive steel beams through the cellar walls beneath the ground floor. Once the house was jacked up off its foundation, 44 wheels were placed under the steel beams in preparation for the trip. The windows and doors were boarded for safety. Due to cost and age the frame section of the house was not moved.

At approximately 9:00AM on a sunny September morning a winch truck (type of tow truck) pulled the house onto River Road greeted with applause, shouts, and tears of joy. The next four hours were met with questions of “what are you doing?”, stopping for tree limbs to be trimmed and utility wires lifted so the house could ease on by. As the house approached the slight incline of the River Road intersection with New Bridge Road the front winch truck pulled the house, and the back winch truck had its breaks on to keep the house from gaining speed. Around the corner onto New Bridge Road and facing The Bridge.

Mr. Christie from Van Howling assured the walkers that the weight of the house was distributed on the 44 rubber wheels, which would allow the rig to

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New Milford's historic Campbell Christie House may get a new lease on life if a proposal being pushed by a citizens committee is approved by the borough and county.



glide over the bridge without any problems. He was right, but I walked ahead of the house and watched with delight as the house safely crossed the bridge. I was so thankful that the work of the last six months had a happy ending and a wonderful new beginning not only for this precious Dutch house, but for the preservation of history. ❁

THE CCH BEING PULLED ON RIVER ROAD, NEW MILFORD BY TWO WINCH TRUCKS AS THE LOCALS WATCH.

THE CCH AS IT CROSSES OVER THE MODERN 1956 BRIDGE OVER THE HACKENSACK RIVER, AROUND THE CORNER FROM ITS NEW HOME AT HNBL. IN THE FOREGROUND YOU CAN SEE PART OF THE 1889 BRIDGE.

PHOTOS ARE FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE AUTHOR.



Interpretation of the Household Inventory of Epka Van Saun, 1808

KEVIN WRIGHT

PUBLISHED
POSTHUMOUSLY



An inventory of the estate of Epka Van Saun of the Township of New Barbadoes, compiled on November 10, 1808, clearly reveals the occupancy of a three-room house. Here the rooms are labeled as a “Kitchen”, “Middle Room” and “Parlor” with a “House Garret” overhead and a “Cellar” beneath the house. According to his last will and testament, Epka cultivated a farm of 110 acres in New Barbadoes and also owned a “Salt Meadow Lot laying at a place called the English Meadow in the Township of Hackensack.” At the time of his death, he resided there with his wife, Jannetye, who was pregnant and thought to be carrying twins, and two daughters named Rachel and Annetje. He may have been the Egbert Vanzaan who married Jannatje Akkerman on October 1, 1791 at the Schraalenburgh Church.

A hearth was the focus of the Van Saun’s kitchen as indicated by a pair of andirons, fire tongs, bellows, a pan and a shovel. Culinary utensils consisted of six iron pots, a teakettle, three trammels, and a “cullender”. Two smoothing irons served the laborious work of pressing cloth. The kitchen was outfitted with a table, a cupboard and a dresser displaying three earthenware dishes. The kitchen inventory records an additional eleven earthenware plates and two pewter plates. The only hint of eating utensils in this room is the mention of a spoon case. Three teapots and a tea canister suggest the popularity of this tropical beverage. A mirror and a picture garnished the walls. “1 Bed bedding and curtains” stood in the kitchen, supplemented by a cradle. The family library consisted of books printed in Dutch and English.

The Middle Room was an extension of the kitchen. Oddly, there are no chairs mentioned in the inventory of this central chamber. Another

dresser in this location held six earthenware dishes and perhaps stored the additional seventeen earthenware plates and four pewter plates listed here as well as three tea pots, a tea canister, four bowls, six teacups and saucers, six silver teaspoons, a cup and two pitchers. A spoon case held an unspecified number of spoons. There was also three jugs, a stoneware pot, three bottles, a sausage stuffer, a peppermill, a brush, a candlestick, a saw, a mirror (looking glass) and an umbrella. A stock of winter pears was also stowed here. Seven baskets provided storage. One piece of woolen cloth and three pieces of tow cloth were catalogued. An iron stove heated the Middle Room. An oil cloth and a rag carpet overspread the floorboards. The second best bed with its bedding and curtains (worth £16) and some “Children’s Bedding” completed the furnishings of this room.

The best “Bed and Bedding and curtains” (worth £17) stood in the parlor. There was another bed and bedding here. The inventory of bed coverings included “1 green Rug, 3 blankets, 4 bed Sprees”, six woolen sheets and twenty-nine sheets of unspecified material. Additionally, there were 90 ells of linen, a piece of linsey-woolsey and a stock of woolen and linen yarns. The wearing apparel of the deceased and his horsewhip were found in the parlor. A small cupboard with “2 Bowls etc.”, another cupboard with three bowls, a small chest and a basket provided storage. It is unclear whether the cupboard-bowls were stored within the cupboards or decoratively displayed on top of them. The inventory of the Parlor also includes “1 Table and Cloth” and a stand. Whatever the lack of seating in the Middle Room, the Parlor harbored twenty chairs. These were of differing quality as “1/2 Dozen chairs” were esteemed at £1 and 16 Shillings while the remaining “14 chairs” were appraised at £1 and 8 Shillings. There is no record of fireplace utensils -- and irons, fire tongs, shovel or bellows -- in the parlor inventory.

The House Garret was depicted as a bulging storehouse containing 50 bushels of buckwheat, 6 bushels of hog corn, two scythes and cradles, one seth [sithe?], a wooden shovel, 30

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Our Trips Around Bogota

CINDY PIANO



Having recently retired, I have had time to think back on my twenty-three years teaching in Bergen County at the L.M. Steen School in Bogota. I tried to give the children who passed through my class a bit of history of their town and the county in which they live. I found that children start to take pride in their community and gain a sense of self and purpose when learning about their local history.

Third grade would start each year by searching our school for clues to the past. We always ended up at the cornerstone which proudly announces that the school on the corner of River Road and Main Street was built in "A 1910 D". We did the math and figured out just how old our school is and then created a rubbing of the stone to hang in our classroom all year. What a great place to build a school right in front of the old Hudson Valley Trolley Line! Transportation was right out our front door.

As the year progressed, I took the third grade classes on trips around Bogota. We would go to Olsen Park along the Hackensack River and imagine life on the river long ago, and discuss reasons

why people would settle there. Then they would discover the corner their school is located on is named Orchard Terrace. This always got them thinking about the farms and orchards that may have been here. We would search streets for evidence of cobblestones and visit the Borough Hall to not only stand inside the first school house in town, but marvel at all of the century-old photographs that adorn the walls. The children would have fun trying to identify where the photo was taken and what it looks like today. Our trip to the corner of West Fort Lee Road and River Road was always interesting. The children would read the names of the World War One veterans and find that streets that are named for men who sacrificed their lives for our country. Then, we would sit and imagine ourselves in a

dug out canoe, paddling down the Hackensack as Native Americans. This is also the spot where a trading post once stood [1643]. Boy, would their imaginations soar!

On our walks down "Historic" Larch Ave. we all would be amazed at the beautiful big houses that line the street. We would search out the first Post office and the bank of Bogota.

Each year, the children would write letters, draw pictures, make dioramas and create arguments to the mayor and town council to connect East and West Fort Lee Roads so that new stores could open up, or of their visions of how to make their town safer or more beautiful.

Steen students explore their community



Mrs. Cindy Piano's Third Grade class is exploring various aspects of Bogota. The students are pictured with the cornerstone rubbing from their school.

CINDY PIANO'S THIRD GRADE CLASS BY SCHOOL'S CORNER STONE WITH THE RUBBING.

Our hallway in school contains a very large blank map of the town of Bogota. By the end of the year, the children added the houses or apartments where they live as well as ALL of the places they learned about during the trips around town. At times the walls of the school were plastered with the artwork of their town "back then" and now. Former students always stopped by to recollect their time in third grade and the things they remembered.

I am happy to say, that even though I have retired, the tradition will continue and this wonderful part of third grader's history of "Trips Around Bogota" will go on!



THE BEGINNING OF THE ANNUAL L.M. STEEN SCHOOL HALLWAY MAP OF BOGOTA. PLACES OF INTEREST WERE ADDED DURING THE YEAR.



CINDY PIANO'S THIRD GRADE CLASS ON LARCH AVENUE WALK.

A CLASS PRESENTING THEIR IMPROVEMENT IDEAS TO THE MAYOR.



Help make history at Historic New Bridge Landing.

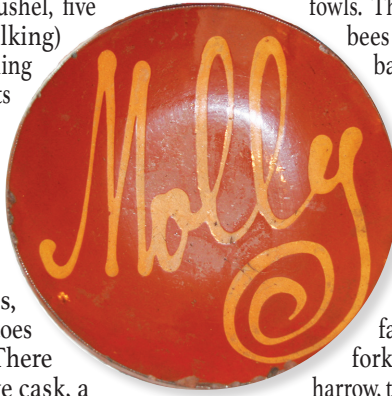
If you are over 70-1/2 years of age, and have a traditional IRA, and are charitably inclined, you can make a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to the Bergen County Historical Society and have your donation count towards your Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) and reduce your federal taxes. ☆ The Bergen County Historical Society qualifies as a recipient of a QCD as it is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization! ☆ Construction of our long awaited museum will commence in the very near future. We ask your help with a QCD to complete our mission of building a first-rate museum which will attract thousands of residents for years to come. ☆ Talk to your accountant / financial advisor to see how a QCD may benefit you or call Jim Purcell, Past President, BCHS at (201) 693-6301 (or email: jepurcell@optonline.net) to find out more information.



lbs. of smoked pork, a meat tub, a box with salt and sundries, a tray, a fan, seven bags of flour and eleven empty flour-bags, a tierce (42 wine gallon container), a half-bushel, five baskets, two woolen (walking) wheels and two (flax) spinning wheels, two reels, two baskets with tow, a stoneware jug, a hoard of old iron, a cow bell and two ropes.

Inventoried in November after the fall harvest, the Van Saun's cellar was stocked with broom corn, apples, turnips, 60 bushels of potatoes and a supply of leather. There was also a soap cask, a lye cask, a dye tub, a basket with tow and a hetchel. Containers included four baskets, four tubs, four stoneware pots, five keilers, eight pails, two firkins, and two barrels. Utensils consisted of a brass kettle, a large tray, a churn and piggin (a small wooden bucket or tub). Furnishings stored or used in the cellar included a table and an old bed and bedding.

Livestock listed in the barn and barnyard consisted of a brown horse, a sorrel horse,



a bay mare, two spotted milch cows, a brown milch cow, a red milch cow, a heifer, a bull, five sheep, four fat hogs, four shoats and twenty fowls. There were also two hives with bees and three empty hives. The barn held eight loads of hay, oats in the chaff, straw, 56 bushels of corn, pumpkins and flax in the straw. Tools, utensils and transport comprised a wagon, two pleasure sleighs, two wood sleds, two meat tubs, three hogsheads, seven barrels, a fanning mill, a crackel, two hay forks, a dung fork, a plough, a harrow, two spades, a grubbing hoe and two other hoes, axes, and a wedge and beetle. Hay, rye and oats were sheltered beneath barracks. Leather was being tanned in vats. 🌿

Go, Check It Out!

HNBL has **5 new Interpretive Signs** & the **QR Code Scavenger Hunt**.

Two more ways to discover the history at HNBL.

AN OUTDOOR EVENT - DRESS WARM

BCHS Holiday Scenes & Songs

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 5, 4 to 5:30 PM

with Linda Russell

*ENJOY Holiday Treats AT THE
Campbell-Christie House*

\$20 adult • \$10 child

[members: \$15 adult • \$7 child]

Reserve Now & for Details:
BergenCountyHistory.org

Join the Festivities



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