



IN BERGEN'S ATTIC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings fellow members. I hope you are all doing well. I can't believe how fast these past three years have gone by. As I complete my final term as president, I am reflecting on all we have accomplished and excited to think about what's coming next. We not only survived throughout the COVID restrictions, but stayed proactive in creative ways. All meetings and public lectures were done over zoom, walking tours and outside events, as allowed, brought visitors to the site while following social distancing rules. Members and friends were kept informed by email blasts and facebook posts by Deborah Powell and she developed a 12-step QR code interactive hunt to engage students at HNBL. Jim Smith and Patty Daurizio are also Facebook contributors with Patty doing a month long women's history series and Friday's Fare at HNBL. Five new interpretive panels were installed by BCHS Trustee Mike Ginch and Scott Sybel. Designed by Powell and largely based on Kevin Wright's research with contributions by Jim Smith and Todd Braisted. Eagle Scout Michael Ginch expanded cooking interpretation by building a bake oven near the Out Kitchen, 2020. New membership software tools were added by Lucy Kramer and Andrea Jenner. Powell rebuilt our website in 2020 that she first created in 1996. We never completely shutdown through the efforts of our amazing volunteers.

We were finally able to purchase the PSE&G substation property to further increase our footprint and historical interpretation of our

site through the efforts of many dedicated supporters of HNBL and BCHS. Through participation in the "America's Summer Road Trip" national forum, 10 volunteers participated in the production and filming of a 45 minute video of HNBL which is now added to our website. A big accomplishment in our planning for the new museum was the receipt of the DEP permit and now the hiring of a professional fund raiser who will give us a broader outreach to achieve our goal. This isn't a complete list of our accomplishments these three years, but it certainly shows the dedication and work at HNBL. Teamwork and dedication achieve success. "Volunteers helping volunteers" has been our experience with Timothy Andro and team of volunteer divers coming multiple times to search the river for our cannon, stolen in 1980 from the front of the Steuben House. No success yet, but based on rumors, it's still hopeful.

Currently, the County has planned a roof replacement for the Campbell-Christie House as well as exterior repairs which will start by the beginning of June. While the work is being done, the CCH will be closed. The annual dinner/meeting is June 8th, 6-10pm, at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn (just across The Bridge from the Steuben House). I hope you will be able to attend and vote, hear this year's recipients of awards, meet up with friends and hear about the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party by trustee and historian Patty Sayre. It's been an honor to serve as your president!

Carol Restivo, BCHS President

BCHS Charleville Musket & Cannon

THE REV WAR AT HNBL

DEBORAH POWELL

Americana Corner



Tom Hand of *Americana Corner* announced a second donation of \$7,500 toward fabricating a humidity controlled case for the Charleville musket found at New Bridge Landing in 1915. The Charlevilles were imported by the thousands from France for the American Cause.

Tom Hand is the creator and publisher of *Americana Corner*, a site he started in 2020. A 1982 West Point graduate, he created Gilman Cheese Corporation after leaving the military. Upon selling his company, Tom retired, and spends most of his time writing for *Americana Corner* and helping charities with a focus on early America. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for the American Battlefield Trust and the National Park Foundation's National Council.

April 20, 2023: BCBS hosted an online forum on *Charleville Musket Found at New Bridge Landing* (in the Hackensack River, 1915). The five speakers were Gary McGowen of *Cultural Preservation & Restoratorion*, Tom Hand of *Americana Corner*, Patrick Wadie-Ibrahim and Jeff Ranu of *Picatinny Arsenal*, and Will Krakhower, of *NJDEP Historic Preservation*. Watch the video at BergenCountyHistory.org > Publications > Videos.



Still searching the Hackensack River, the divers returned on April 15 for another effort to locate the missing cannon that last stood in front of the Steuben House. One rumor has been that the est. 1,400 lb. heavy artillery might have been thrown into the water. Originally located by the Church on the Green, in Hackensack, the cannon was later donated to BCBS. It was stolen in 1980.

OLD BERGEN, "GUARDING" THE STEUBEN HOUSE.
TIMOTHY ANDRO/OWNER NORTHEAST PUBLIC SAFETY DIVERS & MAHWAH RESCUE I, DIVE COORDINATOR & NORTH JERSEY REGIONAL SCUBA TASKFORCE AND VOLUNTEER DIVERS.



BCBS Membership Goes Online

LUCY KRAMER / ANDREA JENNER

Introduction: BCBS began using the *JoinIt* membership software in March of this year. We have received several new members through our new software and several existing members have renewed their membership this way. We hope that the ability to set up membership, auto renewal with a credit card, and the downloadable electronic membership card, have simplified maintaining BCBS membership for our members.

What to Expect: If you haven't had to renew your membership in the last few months, you will get an email approximately 30 days before your membership renewal date, with a link to renew your membership online. <https://app.joinit.com/o/bergen-county-historical-society> If applicable, you will also get renewal email reminders

7 days before your membership expires and then again after your BCBS membership has expired. You can also access the website using the QR code. (The same as the QR Code on this page.)

Ongoing: If you wish to change your membership type or make updates to your information, such as your address, you can set up a user id to better manage your information. Note this is not required to renew your BCBS membership.



BCBS MEMBERSHIP QR CODE. SCANNING THIS WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY TO THE SITE TO JOIN BCBS OR TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

Questions: We hope that you enjoy this new experience! Please see the Frequently Asked Questions below for more information.

FAQs:

Will I have to pay any extra money?
No. The cost of BCBS membership is not changing at the current time.

I want to donate to BCBS when I renew my membership. Can I still do that?
Yes. There is the option to make a voluntary donation to BCBS when you renew your membership.

I want to pay by check. Is that okay?
Yes, you can renew online and choose the option to pay by check. Renew, then simply mail your check to BCBS at: PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661

When I look at my account, it says that I have been a member since 2019. I have been a member for much longer than that. How do I fix this?
The BCBS initial membership date for many members does not extend very far into the

past. All existing members were given a start date of 2019 a few years ago. Email us at bchsmembership@gmail.com with any updates.

I am a lifetime member. Do I have to download my membership card now?
No. You can download your membership card at any time.

If you have any questions, please contact us at bchsmembership@gmail.com

Critical Fundraising Campaign Underway for Historic New Bridge Landing's New Museum

MARTHA MORLEY

A fundraising campaign, part of a multi-phase fundraising plan for the development of a new 3,850 square-foot history museum at Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge, was officially announced by the Bergen County Historical Society last month. A new easy-to-use Donor Platform was added to the website, www.bergencountyhistory.org/donate to facilitate the community giving phase of the campaign.

“This transformative project is not just about designing and building a new facility. It’s about creating spaces that will foster a connection to our past and strengthen our community” commented Martha Morley who is assisting with the fundraising efforts. The proposed museum recently received DEP approval in October which green lighted the fundraising campaign. The new building is designed to be a gathering place with both indoor meeting space and an outdoor theater. It will contain exhibit galleries that will house over 4,000 objects of historic significance, some exclusive to New Jersey.

Today the site serves more than 100,000 visitors annually with exhibits, educational pro-

gramming, classes and special events. To better serve the needs of our growing and diverse community now and for the next 300 years the new museum will allow for expanded educational programming for students, educators and the general public. Our vision highlights our commitment to inclusive history education. When completed, the new museum will be poised to welcome 50% more visitors and funding will allow for twice the number of students to come use the museum and we can subsidize field trips. The current Historic New Bridge Landing layout includes 5 historic buildings all with limited capacity. The new museum will be able to service larger number of visitors and goals include making it more inclusive, serve more people in more ways and use sustainable infrastructure including adding a climate control system to be able to host a wide range of exhibits. The new museum will also allow for larger traveling exhibits that the larger museums have. Renderings of the new museum show an expansive modern barn shaped building with dramatic outdoor space.

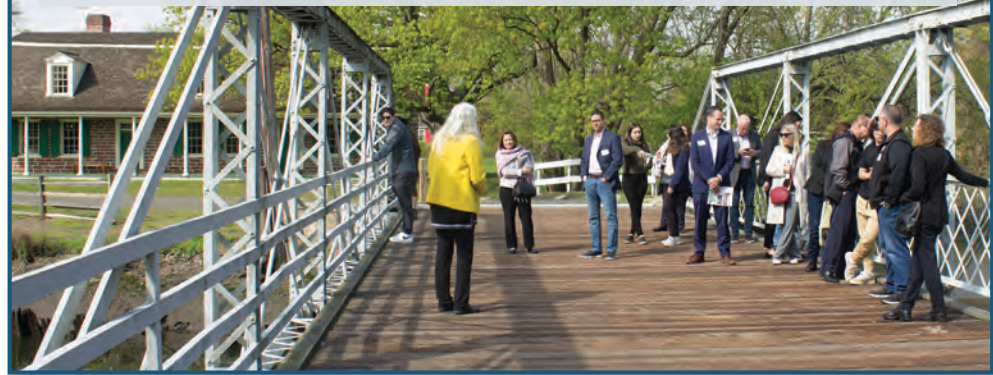
Please help support the cause today!



Hackensack Brewing Co.'s *MUSKET HAZE* IPA can, featuring a skirmish at the historic Steuben House, was inspired by the print purchased at HNBL and hung on the brewery wall. An original painting by Jeff Texler, it is in Bergen County Historical Society's collection of commissioned artwork that features events at HNBL. -John Eiel



We were delighted to host and give tours to the Meadowlands Chamber's Small Business Committee visiting Historic New Bridge Landing on April 26. Even though we're not in the Meadowlands district we do share the Hackensack River. We're a non-profit member where we have an ad and listing in their visitor guidebook that reaches tourists from around the world coming to the metro area. We're totally accessible with the New Bridge Landing train stop, only 1-1/2 blocks away from our museum site and just 5.6 miles from the George Washington Bridge.



DURING REFRESHMENTS IN THE CCH, JOHN CORCORAN IS THE DOOR-PRIZE WINNER OF A MUSKET HAZE 4-PACK



There is Always Family Fun at HNBL



From top: two boys made tricorn hats and George Washington puppets for *Washington's Birthday*, a crowd gathers by the *Out Kitchen* at *Baronfest*, reading the HNBL/Rev War interpretive panel by the Hackensack River, three girls peeked at bread rising in the *Out Kitchen*, and making corn husk dolls by the *Demarest House* at *Under the Shad Moon*.



THE BRIDGE AT NEW BRIDGE

KEVIN W. WRIGHT

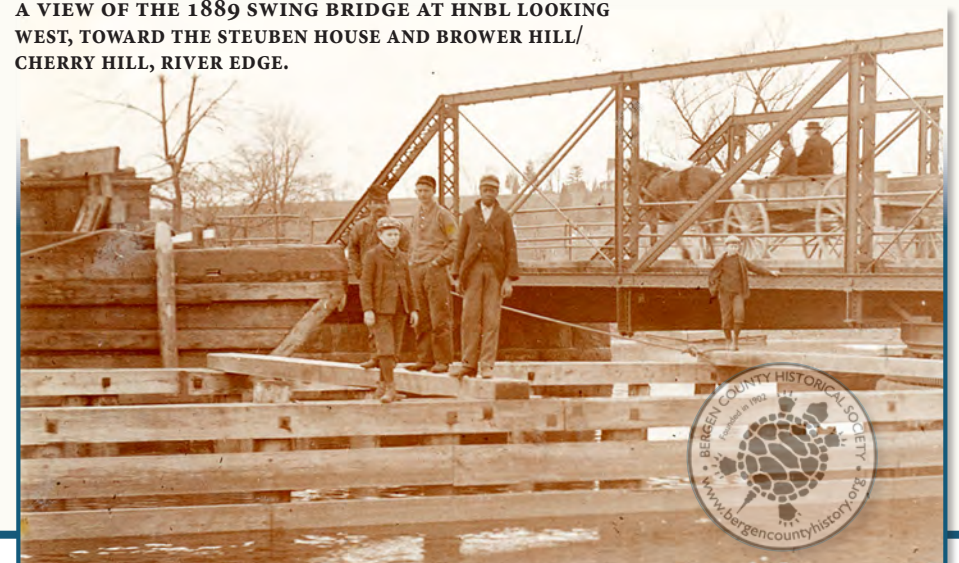


NEW BRIDGE; THE OLDEST EXTANT HIGHWAY SWING-BRIDGE IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. As such, it exemplifies the early use of industrial materials and technological ingenuity (as perfected in the last quarter of the nineteenth century) to solve the common problem of moving overland traffic across navigable inland waterways. Situated two miles south of the head of navigation, New Bridge spanned the strategic Narrows of the Hackensack River, a tidal artery of commerce, carrying the main road from Bergen Neck to the Hackensack Courthouse. It formed a vital nexus in the flow of trade and transportation, well into the present century. In 1888, the Freeholders of Bergen County decided to replace the last in a succession of wooden draw-bridges which had spanned the Hackensack River at this location since 1744. This replacement by a turntable bridge of greater durability and ease of maintenance was part of a broader program to facilitate schooner navigation. Commercial brick-yards in the Hackensack Valley, then at the

height of their productivity were greatly impeded in their output by the slow operation and low clearance of the wooden draws. By 1876, brick schooners had been supplemented by a small fleet of tug drawn barges to overcome such obstacles to navigation. With the steady advance in population and a multiplication in the number of bridges spanning the navigable portions of the stream, a lively water-borne traffic in coal, lumber and agricultural products had been similarly inconvenienced. The earliest use of iron members in the construction of bridges can be traced to the advent of the industrial revolution in the eighteenth century. Thomas Paine designed an iron bridge to span the Schuylkill at Philadelphia and exhibited a model there in January of 1787. He later succeeded in erecting one in Britain that was unfortunately torn down for scrap during the First World War. During the Civil War, large-scale iron and steel foundries, centered around Pittsburgh were able to offer bridge components manufactured of these superior materials as safe and economical alternatives to bridges fashioned from heavy

Read the complete story of *The Bridge* at BergenCountyHistory.org > Publications > PDFs > The Bridge at New Bridge

A VIEW OF THE 1889 SWING BRIDGE AT HNBL LOOKING WEST, TOWARD THE STEUBEN HOUSE AND BROWER HILL/CHERRY HILL, RIVER EDGE.





VINTAGE BASEBALL - July 8
The boys of Summer in the Meadow; The Enterprise Club of New Bridge v. The Flemington Neshanocks. Old Time Rules, Food Vendors. Bring a Chair.

WALKING TOUR - July 23
Stroll through the 18th Century with the History of HNBL.

SUMMER SOCIAL - August 20
BARONFEST - September 30
The Baron's Birthday with The Beer Garden, Food, Music & History.

HARVEST HOMECOMING - October 22
Pumpkin Picking, Autumn Foods, Family Fun for all.

☆☆ **BCHS Members 2023 Annual Dinner** ☆☆



Thursday ☆ June 8 ☆ 6 to 10PM
Sanzari's New Bridge Inn
105 Old New Bridge Rd, New Milford, NJ 10983

RESTAURANT VALET PARKING OR PARK AT HNBL AND STROLL ACROSS THE BRIDGE FROM THE STEUBEN HOUSE

- ☆☆ On the 250th anniversary, the evening's talk will be the **BOSTON TEA PARTY**, presented by Historian Patty Ann Sayre, BCBS Trustee
- ☆☆ Installment of Officers & Awards Presentation

Make Your Reservation online by May 25
Go to BergenCountyHistory.org > Events > BCBS Annual Dinner OR mail check & mark it for "BCBS Dinner" to:
BCBS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661

Rigatoni Bolognese
House Salad

- ENTREES -
SERVED WITH SEASONAL VEGETABLES
YOUR CHOICE OF ONE WILL BE TAKEN AT DINNER

Chicken Sanzari
Salmon Dijonaise
Braised Beef Short Ribs
Pasta Primavera

- DESSERT -
Assorted Cookies &
Cake of the Occasion
Coffee and Tea

CASH BAR \$70 PER PERSON



NOT RECEIVING YOUR BCBS EMAIL BLASTS? IT COULD BE BECAUSE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WAS ENTERED INCORRECTLY OR YOUR SERVER IS REJECTING THE EMAIL. PLEASE CONTACT US TO RECEIVE BCBS EVENT BLASTS: INFO@BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR & LAYOUT