



# IN BERGEN'S ATTIC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



-Beverly Hashimoto, *President*

Greetings fellow BCHS members! Writing the week after the Gala at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn, I hope that the reality of the museum is hitting home with everyone. Red-tape and pandemic delays out of the way, all permitting is in place and the project will move along more quickly. We're getting this done!

Many of you know me already. Usually handling admissions at the Campbell-Christie gate, I'm the one in the cap and straw hat, with the Square device plugged into my iPhone. On several Wednesday mornings each month at HNBL, you will find me, as the Buildings and Grounds Chairperson, working with the crew, planting, weeding, painting, and creating new projects that make our site attractive and informative for visitors.

The War of Independence seems always to have been a shadow in my life. Born in Germantown, PA, I grew up in a Philadelphia suburb first settled in 1711. The Battle of Crooked Billet was fought a couple miles up York Road, and mom's family resided a stone's throw from Valley Forge. For forty years my husband and I have lived in Bergen County and raised our daughter here.

Only in the past few years has the phrase 'material culture' sunk in enough for me to realize that that was my gateway to becoming involved in the Bergen County Historical Society ten years ago. Forever, it seems, I've been enamoured of old houses, redware, pewter, and tin sconces

-- and colonial gardens! I've come to appreciate so much about being at Historic New Bridge Landing, and learning about the overall picture of daily life of the Dutch, other Europeans and the enslaved of Bergen County as they mingled with and learned from their indigenous neighbors. But no one spends time at New Bridge Landing without delving more deeply into the soul-trying politics of the time that truly pitted neighbor against neighbor and threatened to divide households. Skirmishes took real lives and repeated foraging left families in want and fear and outrage. *What was your gateway to HNBL?*

We expect the coming years to be productive and meaningful ones, not only with the building of the Kevin Wright Museum, but because those who called Bergen County home were affected by events all over the colonies. With the final victory at Yorktown not achieved until October 1781, people will be talking about the "250th anniversary" until 2031 at least! For trivia lovers, *Semiquincentennial* seems to be the favored term for the 250th.

As the society leadership and our volunteers continue to provide excellence in programming throughout the year, you are urged to take advantage of these opportunities to learn and enjoy what BCHS has to offer. And, in turn, we ask that you continue to support not only the museum building, but the events we plan and carry out.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
Bergen County

250<sup>th</sup>  
of American  
Revolution  
Remembering  
the People & Places  
that Shaped a Country

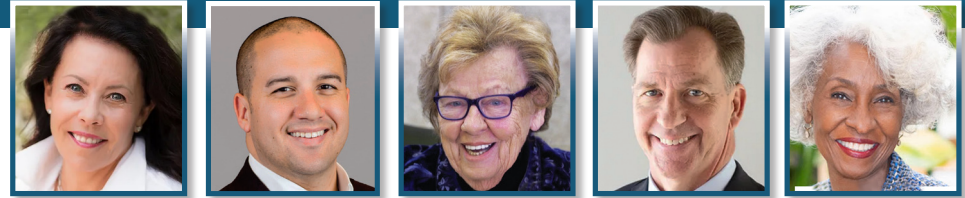


BARON VON STEUBEN

# BCHS Raise the Roof Fundraising Gala for the New Museum Building at HNBL

MARTHA MORLEY

The Bergen County Historical Society held an inaugural Gala to support the building of the new 3,750 square foot history museum at the 13-acre Historic New Bridge Landing site in River Edge. Over 150 guests enjoyed a festive cocktail hour with entertainment by Anne and Ridley Enslow, a fabulous dinner with music by the band Sou'led Out on October 19th at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn. The event paid tribute to New Jersey History Maker honorees that included NJ State Senator Loretta Weinberg; Jose Lozano, Chief Growth Officer, Hackensack Meridian Health; Bill Hanson, President of NAI James E. Hanson; Tammy Molinelli, Executive Director of Bergen County Workforce Development Board; and Anita Rivers, Executive Director of Community Relations at Fairleigh Dickinson. All raised at the event go towards the transformational museum building; construction, planned exhibits and educational space build-out and programming. Plans call for the new museum to be visitor ready in time for our nation's 250th Anniversary on July 4, 2026.



left to right: Tammy Molinelli, Jose Lozano, Loretta Weinberg, William Hanson, Anita Rivers.



right, Thank You to our Gala Sponsors! below, Displaying some items from The Silent Auction.

**THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS**

- BRANCA PROPERTIES INCORPORATED
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- NAI James E. Hanson
- PSEG
- ONYX
- ST
- Columbia Bank Foundation
- FDU Personal. Global. Transformational.
- CenterPoint
- OCEANFIRST BANK
- ELBERON DEVELOPMENT GROUP
- ROI
- TECH
- ESTRO



above left, Ridley and Anne Enslow entertain with colonial favorites during Meet & Greet. above, Keynote Speaker Mary Calvi, at left, also gave each attendee a signed copy of her book "Dear George, Dear Mary". below, Emcee Rosie Gunther McCoole, in red, conducts the Silent Auction, post-dinner. left, Bill Hanson, NJ History Maker with BCBS President Beverly Hasimoto.



Strolling across the lighted "Bridge That Saved A Nation" led visitors to peek inside the Steuben House during a lovely and eventful evening.

# The Campbell-Christie House Restoration

DEBORAH POWELL

The Campbell-Christie House has a new cedar shingle roof! Other exterior woodwork has also been completed after two-year long planning by the County of Bergen. The State Office of Historic Preservation weighed in on the plans. Consultant James Giresi of Clarke Caton Hintz also presented to BCHS and the Historic New Bridge Landing State Park Commission.

Further work needed was discovered during the project and replacement of all the windows are reportedly scheduled for next spring.

Removing all of the collections located on both the first floor and attic of the Campbell-Christie House into storage by BCHS volunteers was quite a task completed last spring.

We have a unique relationship where the building is owned by the County of Bergen



but located on BCHS property. BCHS retains all use and interpretation.

We are also delighted to have planning projects to begin with the release of funding from a state appropriation. Deliberation are underway with Richard Grubb and Associates with archaeology near the state owned, state historic site--the Zabriskie Steuben House, with a focus on locations of outbuildings, interior discovery in back rooms, and possibly establishment of a formal garden. We will also be working with LAN Associates on entrance and parking lots redevelopment, other site planning, and water intrusion to the site and the Zabriskie Steuben House.



*There is plenty going on besides BCHS Events.* Every other Wednesday morning, the **Buildings & Grounds** volunteers plant, dig, weed, & create new projects, making the site lovely for visitors. It may be painting a bench or installing new fence rails, but they are invaluable to Historic New Bridge Landing.

Everyone is welcome.

**Interested?**

Contact Beverly at [bchsgarden@gmail.com](mailto:bchsgarden@gmail.com)



## THE CHRISTMAS BOUGH



*Suspended from the Dwelling Room ceiling in the Steuben House at Sinter Klaas Day & during Christmas Concerts is a Kissing Ball. The tradition from the Middle Ages is a collection of evergreens of holly, ivy, & pine, with a sprig of mistletoe in the center. Fruits suspended from the perimeter represent the five known planets at the time; Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, & Saturn. These were hung from the ceiling along passage ways in castles & houses, to render blessings & good luck to all who passed under.*

## The Bergen County Historical Society Library

is currently located at the Philip J. Ciarco Jr. Learning Center, 355 Main St., Hackensack, NJ. We house early Bergen County Family histories, published and bound books, pamphlets, special collections, manuscripts, visual postcards and photographs, maps and atlases, periodicals, as well as miscellaneous files.

Recently, we have collected pamphlets, postcards and newspaper clippings of the NJ Palisades Interstate Park currently on display in the Ciarco main lobby.

The Palisades' beauty and glorious scenery has always had great appeal and has roused private and public support for its conservation starting in the early 1900's. The Palisades have an interesting history from its ancient geology to recreational use today. Get a glimpse of the Library's Collection by viewing the display and learn more by visiting the library.

**The BCHS Library [Room 124] is open most Thursdays 12:30- 3:00 P.M. and every third Tuesday each month, 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.**

*Email ahead to confirm the library is open or to make an appointment to visit at another time. To visit, email: [VisitBCHSlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:VisitBCHSlibrary@gmail.com)*

For Research Queries, email:  
[theBCHSlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:theBCHSlibrary@gmail.com)



# Stewardship through Historical and Natural Interpretation:

## PROVIDING MEMORY AND MEANING IN NEW JERSEY'S STORIED PLACES

KEVIN WRIGHT



The State of New Jersey first officially marked its historic heritage by pacing a granite monument at the reburial site of John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, beside the Old School Baptist Meeting House a Hopewell in 1865. Between 1873 and 1921, the State authorized the placement of sixteen cemetery markers, battlefield tablets and monuments.

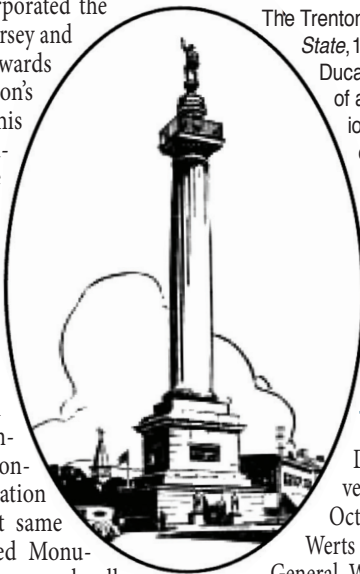
In 1874, the Legislature incorporated the Washington Association of New Jersey and appropriated \$5,000 annually towards the maintenance of Washington's Headquarters in Morristown. This historic site became the first National Historical Park in the United States when the State of New Jersey conveyed its title and interest therein to the Federal government on July 4, 1933.

Governor Joel Parker, of Freehold, suggested erection of a commemorative monument at ceremonies marking the 99th anniversary of the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1877. The Monmouth Battle Monument Association was formed in October of that same year. Daniel S. Schanck donated Monument Park, comprising 3-1/4 acres on a knoll near Freehold's main thoroughfare. Governor George B. McClellan laid the cornerstone on the battle's 100th anniversary.

According to the design of architects Emelin T. Littell and Douglas Smythe, the Monmouth Battle Monument is made of polished New England granite, on a triangular base, with cannon at each angle. A large circular step above the base displays twenty medallion portraits of the prominent officers who participated in the battle. Above this step, the drum-shaped base of the shaft bears five gunmetal bronze bas-relief panels, each 5 feet high and 6 feet long, designed by Maurice J. Power, of the New York National Art Foundry, and executed by sculptor James

E. Kelly. These illustrate incidents from the battle. The column consists of three sections, joined with rings of bay leaves, crowned with a Composite capital and a statue of the Goddess of Liberty. Governor Leon Abbett unveiled the monument on November 13, 1884, before 20,000 people.

The Trenton Battle Monument Association was formed on May 7, 1884. A large brick carriage factory was demolished to make way for the monument, which marks the spot where, on Christmas Day, 1776, Captain Alexander Hamilton's battery of New York Artillery held off King and Queen Streets, proving a decisive factor in the battle that marked a turning-point in the War for American Independence. Ground was broken on September 20,



The Trenton Battle Monument from *Know Your State*, 1925. Designed by architect John H. Ducan. The Trenton Monument consists of a hollow Roman Doric column, fashioned of white Maine granite, with an observatory in the cap, crowned by a bronze statue of Gen. Washington, sculpted by William Rudolf O'Donovan. The monument rises 150 feet above street level and weighs 4 million pounds. It was dedicated October 19, 1893, before a crowd of 20,000, including eight governors that were among the throng of dignitaries.

1891, and the cornerstone laid on December 26, 1891, the 115th anniversary of the battle. It was dedicated October 19, 1893. Governor George T. Werts made the closing address. Major-General W.J. Sewell commanded a military parade of 5,000 soldiers for the occasion.

The State of New Jersey began acquiring and operating historic sites at the initiative of Governor Franklin Murphy, a member of several patriotic societies, including the Sons of the American Revolution. On April 2, 1902, the Legislature empowered a State commission to purchase and maintain the Old Indian King Tavern at Haddonfield. The provincial Assembly met here in 1777 and inserted the "state" for "colony" in all public documents. The State of New Jersey took possession of the old tavern on June 15, 1903. Renovations were made between 1908 and 1910.

FOR THE COMPLETE ARTICLE GO TO BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG > PUBLICATIONS > RESERCH PDFs

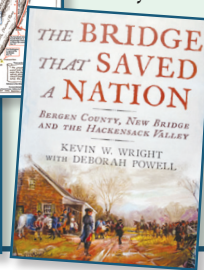
## Sinter Klaas Day December 3, 1-3PM

Come Visit with Sinter Klaas.  
Dutch Baking in the Out Kitchen.  
Holiday Fare in the Tavern.  
Tour Historic Houses.  
Walk the Bridge.



Dec. 16 & 17, 2023 - Christmas Concerts 2024:  
Jan. 7 - BCBS Members 12th Night  
Jan. 28 - Candlemas / Bridget's Day  
Feb. 25 - George Washington's Birthday  
Mar. tba - Black History Program  
Women's History Program  
Apr. 21 - Chwame Gischuch / Shad Moon  
May 19 - Dutch Pinkster  
Plus Zoom & On-Site Lectures during the year.  
Check [BergenCountyHistory.org](http://BergenCountyHistory.org) > Events for dates, info & updates. Events & Dates are subject to change.

both are suitable for framing



History Makes Great Holiday Gifts for anyone on your list who loves Bergen County History.

*Washington Leads the Troops over New Bridge, November 20, 1776* by B. Spencer Newman, 14"x 11" glossy print; *The Retreat Across the Bridge*, 24"x 18" map; & *The Bridge That Saved A Nation* book are available to purchase with more Gift Shop items during the event, *Retreat to Victory*, Sunday, November 19 at HNBL.

SONGS & STORIES-LIVE IN THE HISTORIC STEUBEN HOUSE

## BCHS 40th Annual Christmas Concerts

Linda Russell & Companie

Saturday ~ December 16 at 6:00 & 7:45 PM

new times: Sunday ~ December 17 at 3:00 & 6:00 PM



Join the Festivities

\$35 NON-MEMBER

\$28 BCBS MEMBER

RESERVE NOW & FOR DETAILS:  
[BergenCountyHistory.org](http://BergenCountyHistory.org)

Order your tickets through the mail:  
BCBS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661. Specify concert date & time, & your 1st & 2nd choice.

Tavern Fare AVAILABLE AT THE  
Campbell-Christie House  
~ AN ADDITIONAL COST ~

On the cold, drizzly morning of November 20, 1776, a mere four months after the Second Continental Congress declared us to be an independent nation, the mighty British army mounted an invasion of Bergen County. Their goal was to capture the American garrison at Fort Lee. The garrison's only means of escape lay across a small wooden drawbridge at New Bridge Landing at what today is now River Edge, Teaneck, New Milford.

# EVENTS AT NEW BRIDGE 1776



## Bergen County

# 247<sup>th</sup> of American Revolution

### Remembering the People & Places that Shaped a Country



The 3rd New Jersey Brigade of the American Revolution

## RETREAT TO VICTORY

**November 18th**  
7:00 PM 2023

**November 19th**  
10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Historic New Bridge Landing 1201 Main St, River Edge, NJ

Bridge Tour **2** Skirmishes

NOVEMBER 18th, 7:00 PM  
Historian Jim Smith will speak on the Geography of NJ & its impact on the war.

In the 1752 Steuben House  
Koopman photo by Richard Frant

The c.1752 Steuben House with Rev War Exhibits, Historic Homes, Barn & Outkitchen Open for Tours throughout the day

More info: [BergenCountyHistory.org](http://BergenCountyHistory.org)

John Koopman/Washington leads the troops over the New Bridge

Arrives in the morning! with General Greene as described by Thomas Paine

Children's Activities



Bergen County Historical Society

**Not receiving your BCHS email blasts?** IT COULD BE BECAUSE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WAS ENTERED INCORRECTLY OR YOUR SERVER IS REJECTING THE EMAIL. PLEASE CONTACT US TO RECEIVE BCHS EVENT BLASTS at this email: [ContactBCHS@BergenCountyHistory.org](mailto:ContactBCHS@BergenCountyHistory.org)

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