



IN BERGEN'S ATTIC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

100% GOES TO OUR MISSION.



Please contact us if you are willing to help with the fund raising for the new museum at HNBL. Do you have names and contacts to reach out to? Have friends and associates whom may want make a difference in their community and feel like it's time to give back?

We now have available a professional promotion brochure and letter, that can be customized for you, to get you started. If you can help, please contact BCBS Trustee John Eiel, JohnEiel@yahoo.com.

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FRONT COVER OF THE BCBS FOUR PAGE PROMOTIONAL BROCHURE AND A GRAPHIC OF THE MUSEUM INTERIOR.

Daughters of the American Revolution, Polly Wyckoff-David Demarest Chapter, making a donation to the BCBS Museum Fund at the Sponsors Kiosk. Regent Marilyn Neagle is presenting a \$1,000 check to BCBS president Carol Restivo.



BCHS has five new interpretive panels coming to HNBL this year.

Funding made possible through the HNBLSPC by the NJDEP.



HERE ARE THREE OF THE INTERPRETIVE PANELS. LEFT- THE KIOSK, LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE HACKENSACK AVE. PARKING LOT AND THE WEST SIDE ENTRANCE TO THE MUSEUM SITE. THIS SIGN WELCOMES VISITORS TO OUR SITE WITH A MAP AND OVERVIEW.



RIGHT- TIMELINE OF REVOLUTIONARY WAR EVENTS IN WHITE AND THE CORRESPONDING EVENTS AT HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING IN YELLOW.

New Bridge Landing

About 1710, David Ackerman built the New Bridge gristmill. In 1732, Aronck Ackerman and Jan Zabricki built the Zabricki Steuben House

FIRST BRIDGE ABOVE NEWARK BAY

The 14th bridge over the Hackensack River at New Bridge could have looked like this:

Drawn by 1814-1819

New Bridge is located at the narrow of the river to the north of the marshy lands. As the first bridge above Newark Bay, the bridge crossing was important for commerce and strategic in the American Revolution.

The 1809 Pennsylvania Spring Bridge replaced earlier wooden bridges. It could be raised to let masted vessels pass by.

Spring Bridge 1809 Concept

SHIP LANDING

Stores of 49 iron barrels, traveled to city markets with flour and iron produce from local farms. Iron from an iron forge at Long Point was shipped out. Goods were brought back to sell at the Trading Post. The Zabricki became wealthy on trade and enlarged their house in 1747.

TRADING POST

1793 inventory of the Zabricki Store at New Bridge

Zabricki's Store

1793 inventory of the Zabricki Store at New Bridge

TIDE MILL FOR GRINDING GRAIN

The mill pond and dam trapped the rising river water a day. When released, the fall of water turned the water wheel. A series of gears turned the mill stones which ground the wheat, corn or rice into flour.

Ackerman's Zabricki Tide Mill 1738-1832

Small drawings of windmills are not allowed by law at Historic New Bridge Landing and may result in fines. Please contact the office for more information.

Bergen County History.org

INN, TAVERN & STAGE COACH

By 1768, Andrew Van Buskirk had a stage coach coming from New Bridge to Willsboro & Pluckemin.

LEFT- DESCRIBES THE 18TH CENTURY TIDE MILL AND THE VILLAGE OF NEW BRIDGE THAT GREW UP AROUND IT ON THE WEST BANK OF THE HACKENSACK RIVER.

NOTABLE SUBURBAN ARCHITECTURE: WEIR'S EDGECROFT AT RIVER EDGE

A History by Kevin W. Wright
Published by Deborah Powell © 2021
Originally Published © 2012

Were it not for a strangely confessional postscript to his life, only William John Weir's elegant suburban residence and terraced gardens at River Edge—now a century old—would survive to invite curiosity about their maker. So perhaps we should dismiss it as merely the artifact of frustrated literary affectations from an amateur playwright and poet, who earned a small fortune manufacturing shoe lasts. Or perhaps it addresses some particular failing, otherwise concealed from posterity. We will never know. But the first item in William John Weir's last will and testament is fairly unusual—at least in my experience as a researcher. On April 2, 1925, nine months before his death, he wrote:

"In the lives of most of us there have been a great many mistakes. Happy are we, if their effects have not extended past ourselves. I have tried to arrange my affairs with judgment and fairness

to those immediately connected with me. Death is a great Deliverer and one should be resigned in contemplation of the inevitable end. When the great seal of silence has passed over me, I trust some few will remember the good which I have accomplished and allow Oblivion to banish all rancor arising from any error I have committed."

William John Weir, shoe last manufacturer, was born in New York on December 16, 1856, to Irish immigrants, William George Weir, a cabinetmaker, and his wife Mary (Spence), a dressmaker. William G. Weir was born in Unagh, near Cookstown, County Tyrone, about thirty-five miles west of Belfast, in 1825. Fleeing en Gorta Mór, or the Great Potato Famine, he immigrated to New York in 1849, where he married Mary Spence on September 9, 1852. The family moved to San Francisco by 1860, where their six offspring were educated.

Who was William J. Weir and how did he come to build such a fine house on River Edge Heights? In memory of Anthony Leonard "Bud" Korteweg, we celebrate a cynosure of suburban architecture on its centennial.

Read the full story of EDGECROFT and its builder at BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG > PUBLICATIONS > RESEARCH PDFS.



Wm. J. Weir Residence, River Edge, N. J.


Documents Related to Slavery from the BCHS Library, & Collections are available online.

Transcribed documents of enslaved and non-enslaved African-Americans, and indentured servants are on the BCHS website - [BergenCountyHistory> Publications > Research PDFs](#). The information about these lives is being made available to researchers, genealogists, and to the families that may be connected to them, and to foster a better understanding of our history in Bergen County. Each document is titled with a code number

corresponding to its location in either the BCHS Library & Archives, the BCHS Collections or indicated to be at another location; then followed by the enslaved name, the date of the document, followed by other names that are mentioned within. With each transcription is an image of the original document. They have been transcribed line-for-line, to include the misspellings, grammar and capitalizations as they appear on the original.

This is not the complete list within the BCHS Library and Collections. As more documents are transcribed and photographed, they will be added. (BCHS maintains ownership and rights of these documents and they cannot be reproduced without written permission.)


BELOW. A TRANSCRIPTION AND ORIGINAL DOCUMENT FROM THE COLLECTION.

<p>42-4 BCHS Library & Archives document Claus, August 20, 1790 Richard Ryerson, James Jay</p> <p>Whereas Claus, A Negro man, for the purchase of whom I have agreed with Richard Ryerson of Pompton, has lived with me four weeks on Trial, and is so well satisfied with the usage he has received, that he declares that were he sure to be always treated in the same way, he would like to live with me all his Life. Now as the usage he has received is no other than I have always held, and will ever hold to an honest & industrious Slave who behaves well, as he has done during the above Trial; and as it appears to me that the fears he has of being ever afterwards liable to be treated with unmerited severity, have been infused into his mind by mischievous people, I am induced from a desire of removing such fears, and quieting the mind of the said Slave, to promise, that if the said Claus shall within a year from the Date hereof, shew just & sufficient Cause to complain of ill usage, I will sell him within six months after such Complaint, for the money I am to give for him and Expenses I may be at on his Account.</p> <p>August 20, 1790 The Sum to be paid for the above Claus is \$61.75.4 [-over \$400.00] James Jay</p>	
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100% GOES TO OUR MISSION

Building a museum building will enhance our visitors' experience of the story Historic New Bridge Landing and Bergen County with a state of the art building for more exhibits, lectures, and a controlled environment for our collections. Scan the QR code, at right, with your smart phone at right to donate. It's just that easy!



Come Join the BCHS QR Code Scavenger Hunt

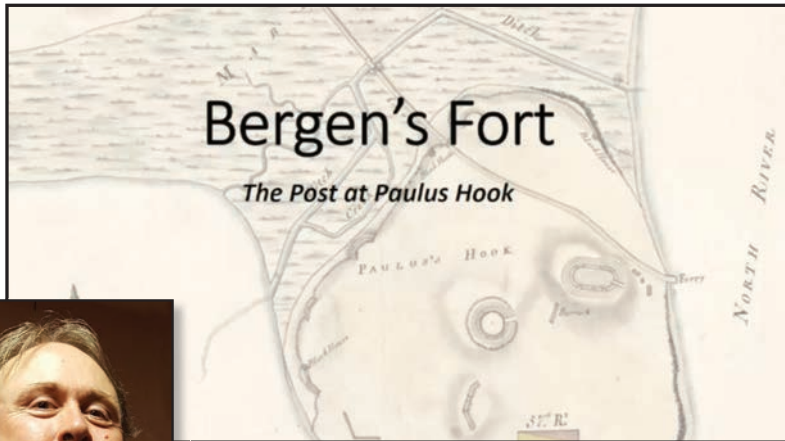


As you walk around Historic New Bridge Landing, you may notice 12 small metal signs located at points of interest and buildings around the site. They are the new BCHS QR Code Scavenger Hunt markers that have made their debut at HNBL. A hands-on activity for adults and children, the Scavenger Hunt is available dawn to dusk to learn about Historic New Bridge Landing using your smart phone. Families are invited to open the History Challenge Form on the BCHS website in "Visit." You only have to open the Challenge Form once. The QR Code on the right of each sign opens a two minute YouTube video to help you answer the corresponding question in the Challenge Form. Hit submit when finished, and we will email you a BCHS certificate to print out to display with pride of your knowledge of HNBL history.

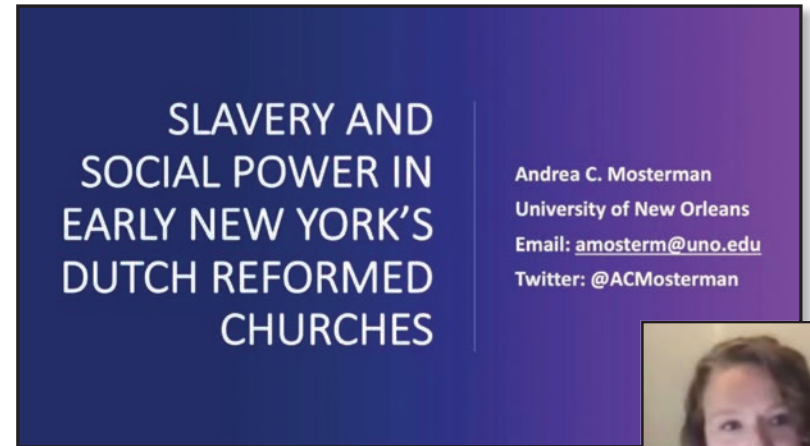
Besides the half dozen walking tours since August that were sold out to the capacity that was allowed, BCHS also hosted zoom lectures that reached new audiences from around the country. The speakers presented topics that connected to the story of life here in 18th century Bergen County. These four talks are now available as videos on the BCHS website. BergenCountyHistory.org > **Publications** > **Videos**.



Marta Black delves into the details of 18th century cartoons reflecting the political climate of the day. A means of protest, cartoons expressed both sides of the issue. She focuses on The Stamp Act of 1765 and its part in the American Revolution.



Historian and author Todd Braistaid explains the importance of the Post at Paulus Hook (present day Jersey City) and its important role during the Revolutionary War.



Andrea C. Mosterman
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Dr. Andrea Mosterman, compares the caste system of the assembly in the Dutch Reformed Churches, who had the preferred seats, and who sat up under the rafters, and why.



PODCAST INTERVIEW:

Bergen County Commissioner Mary J. Amoroso (left) interviewed BCHS Past President Deborah Powell (right) on March 19, 2021 about the Bergen County Historical Society, Historic New Bridge Landing and BCHS plans for a new museum, as part of the County's podcast series.

If you missed the original broadcasts, or want to see these interesting talks again, go to BergenCountyHistory.org > **Publications** > **Videos**.

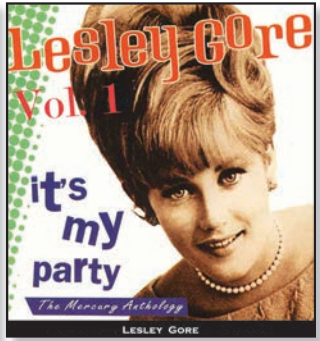
BCHS LOOKED BACK IN MARCH, WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, TO WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN BERGEN COUNTY.



MAJOR MARIE THERESE ROSSI-CAYTON



NELLIE KATHERINE MORROW PARKER



LESLEY GORE



ALICE HUYLER RAMSEY



SARA ROELOFS KIERSTED



THEDA BARA

If you were on the *Bergen County Historical Society* face book page during March, you may have seen daily postings of **Bergen County Women Who Made a Difference**. It's a series started during the **2018 March To the Vote** exhibit in the Steuben House. Included in the current group of 41 are entertainers, doctors and nurses, historians, teachers, activists, military, and more. Each made our county a better place to live. We will add more names with photos to this collection. Visit our fb page > photos > album **Women Who Made a Difference**, to see visit them all, again.



ELIZABETH DICKERSON SUTLIFF DULFER



JUSTINE OLIVE JOHNSTONE WAGNER



ANNE THERESA DONOVAN

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: INFO@BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

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