

IN BERGEN'S ATTIC

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- BEVERLY HASHIMOTO



"What's with the Retreat signs?" I've heard this sheepish query more than once at New Bridge Landing. A Retreat is kind of a funny thing to celebrate. Only a white flag surrender could be worse. It sounds like defeat, giving up, running away.

For me school trips meant Independence Hall and Washington Crossing State Park. We all knew where Washington crossed the Delaware. Until I moved to Northern New Jersey, Washington crossing the Hackensack was an unknown, or just a forgotten, chapter of the War for Independence.

Learning more as a BCHS member, the Retreat began to make sense: it was about saving an army to fight another day. Retreat as a military tactic. When you see the bigger picture, when you know how it ends, the significance of our part of the story of the Revolutionary War rings truer.

BCHS members envisioned a museum back in the '50's. In 2007, hopes surged once

more: we needed more restrooms and a climate-controlled storage for the collections. We wanted a gallery space so the Steuben mansion could again be a house museum displaying our larger furnishings. The vision expanded to a museum gallery adaptable as a rental space for small functions, and that would call for a catering kitchen.

The quoted price in the early 2000's was unnerving to an organization whose income relied on admissions from events, a couple fund raisers held each year and – to be sure, some nice donations. Hurricane Sandy brought a tremendous blow. By 2015, Trustees were still busy with conservation efforts and lots of FEMA paperwork. And then Covid-19 struck and life as we knew it ground to a halt. Again, the Society rallied. We re-imagined events with more time outside; concerts on the lawn. We learned how to use Zoom. On the one hand, in the face

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READY TO BREAK GROUND, ROGER GROSS (DONOR, PRESIDENT OF NIA NATIONAL REALTY); BCHS PRESIDENT BEVERLY HASHIMOTO; BUILDING CHAIR DEBORAH POWELL; BCHS FUNDRAISING ADVISORY COMMITTEE LEADER JOE LANGAN; CHIEF OF STAFF TO BC EXECUTIVE JAMES TEDESCO TOM DUCH; RIVER EDGE MAYOR TOM PAPALEO; BERGEN COUNTY CLERK JOHN HOGAN; FDU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS ANITA RIVERS; FORMER BC EXECUTIVE PAT SCHUBER.



Museum Ground-Breaking at Historic New Bridge Landing, October 1, 2025

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of hurricanes and pandemics, the climbing price of building materials and our limited income, a museum felt like a foolish reach; daunting . . . a little bit crazy, actually. On the other hand – we have so much to share.

We have great collections: Bergen County families continue to entrust their prized family possessions to us. Three amazing stone houses. And a compelling story in “The Bridge that Saved a Nation.” We had talked about this museum for so very long . . . for years. Will people take us seriously enough to donate with so many failed predictions of breaking ground: next spring, next fall? Can we – responsibly – start building before we have all the money we need? Do we resign ourselves to never having proper storage for

our collections, near at hand? Never having better facilities? Financially, that was the safest way to go. Give up. Surrender. How to go on when you don't yet know the end of the story? I found an allegory in our story, here at Historic New Bridge Landing. Our place in the American Revolution is not among the victories at Saratoga or at Princeton. Washington had lost the Battle of Long Island, lost New York City and the Continental Army was driven by British forces to this side of the Hudson. This was a very grim time for the Patriot cause: a moment of grave concern.

Contemplating this museum, we weren't exactly in Retreat mode, but we certainly can call it a moment of grave concern. We

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BUILDING CHAIR DEBORAH POWELL AND
BCHS PRESIDENT BEVERLY HASHIMOTO



THE BCHS KIOSK OF MUSEUM DONORS IN THE BACKGROUND OF ATTENDEES



DONOR GAYLE GROSS MADE AN APPEAL FOR
FUNDING FOR THE MUSEUM AT HNBL.



REFRESHMENTS WERE ENJOYED BY
THE CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE.

ARTIST RENDERING
OF THE BCHS
MUSEUM BUILDING
WHEN COMPLETED



Who were the Patriots & the Loyalists from Bergen County?

PEGGY W. NORRIS



The BCHS Library and Archives has digitized three card files that index almost 1000 Revolutionary War patriots and loyalists. The cards give genealogical and service information as well as providing primary sources that are particularly useful in filling out the story of your Revolutionary War ancestor.

Kathryn Phillips Du Bois created two of the card files in 1960. *Loyalists of Bergen County* names 326 Loyalists and includes information about resettlement and confiscated estates, as well as genealogical information. Some of these people were called before the Council of Safety accused of being Loyalist, but cleared their names. *Patriots of Bergen County* contains similar information about almost 600 Patriots. Sources referenced include Stryker's *Official Register of Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War* and the *Minutes of Justices & Freeholders of the County of Bergen, 1715-1795*.

Cards in *Revolutionary War Soldiers' Graves* identify the place of burial of the soldier and provide additional information, which may include birth and death dates, military service, wife, and sources of information. The compiler of this card index is unknown.

PETER ZABRISKIE'S INFORMATION CARDS IN PATRIOTS OF BERGEN COUNTY

Zabriskie
Peter Baptised 11-5-1721 Died 1791
Buried at the Church on the Green in Hackensack. Owned the Mansion House in Hackensack which was Washington's headquarters. He was host to the Gen. Meals were sent in by the Campbells who owned an Inn close by. Peter's home later became the famous Inn, the Mansion House.
He married in 1744 to Martha Varrick

N.J. Archives Council of Safety page 164 ✓
8-29-1775 "Resolved that Peter Zabriskie and Joast Zabriskie be a committee of Safety for the County."
He was a Justice in 5-8-1776; 5-15-1776 Minutes of Bergen County Freeholders and Justices
Freeholder book- he listed as a Loan Officer 7-4-1775 page 126
Wife bapt. 4-22-1722 married 10-25-1747

Zabriskie Card # 2 Peter ✓
Peter listed as a prisoner from Paramus taken to New York Sugar House March 1780
Record- New York Gazette and Weekly Mercury No. 1484 dated March 27-1780
Zabriskie Genealogy lists only one Peter who was of age for war service credit. Page 8 lists him. # 319
Wife was a daughter of Abram Varick and Anna Bertholf. He joined the Hack. Church 11-25-1742, was an Elder 1766-8.

ZABRISKIE'S MANSION HOUSE, HACKENSACK HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, 1936.



PETER ZABRISKIE'S INFORMATION CARD (FRONT AND BACK) IN REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIERS' GRAVES

ZABRISKIE Hack.
Church on the Green
Peter bapt. 11-5-1721
died 1791 Married 1747
He was host to Gen. Washington when he was stationed in Bergen County. His home later became the famous Mansion House, but before that time meals were furnished by Archibald Campbell.
Wife- Martha Varrick same cemetery

N.J. Archives page 164 Council of Safety
8-29-1775 "Resolved that Peter Zabriskie and Joast Zabriskie be a Committee of Safety for the County."
He was a Justice in 5-8-1776; 5-15-1776 Minutes of Bergen County Freeholders and Justices

An example of the information that can be found is seen on the accompanying cards related to Peter Zabriskie. Baptized in 1721, he was an avid patriot and owner of the Mansion House hotel in Hackensack. The cards have fascinating, but unsourced, information that he was host to George Washington, that he married Martha Varrick (in 1744 or 1747), and he was an elder in the Hackensack Church. In addition, the index records that he was a prisoner in New York in the notorious Sugar House, was on the Committee of Safety in 1775, and served as a Justice in 1776. The latter are documented with references to *Freeholders' Minutes*, a newspaper report, the New Jersey State Archives, and the *Council of Safety Minutes*. The card from *Revolutionary Soldiers' Graves* records that he was buried in Hackensack Church on the Green.

Thank you to the volunteers who scanned and proofread over 1000 cards: Lynne Skead, Cindy Piano, and Linda Steffe with help from Joe Suplicki, Florence Jennes, and Bob Jennes.

View these three documents at BergenCountyHistory.org/Publications/PDFs.





KEN BURNS' FILM CREW AT THE STEUBEN HOUSE



Last year, the film crew from Kevin Burns' "THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION" spent two days filming background footage around Historic New Bridge Landing. This important series premieres on PBS, November 16, 2025.

★ MORE ACTIVITY AT HNBL ★



★ COMING FROM ALL ACROSS THE U.S., THE BLAUVELT FAMILY ASSOCIATION STANDS ON THE STEUBEN HOUSE PORCH. THEY TOURED HNBL AS PART OF THEIR ANNUAL REUNION, SEPT. 12.



★ DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION GAINED IN-SIGHT ON 18TH CENTURY COOKING AT THE MILITARY CAMP KITCHEN AND OUT KITCHEN WITH ANDREA JENNER, SEPT. 13.



★ REENACTORS HAD A PRACTICE DRILL DAY WITH ERIC LICHEK, SEPT. 14.

★ MEMBERS FROM BERGEN LEADS TOURED HNBL WITH DEBORAH POWELL, SEPT. 15. AND FORMER BC EXECUTIVE PAT SCHUBER SPOKE WITH THE GROUP.

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were finally of a mind that if we just broke ground we would start "winning the battles". People would step up and show their support of this meaningful project. We could only go forward, convinced that a museum/visitor center was in our future. We embraced the optimism and began some serious fund raising. We had begun to amass a museum building fund after all, and we have received some remarkably generous donations. BCHS engaged Anthony Iovino of Arcari + Iovino Architects, Little Ferry. Working with Joe Langan of Catcord Construction, Paramus, the plan was developed to build in Two Phases. A godsend.

The Society is deeply grateful for all the support and donations we have ever been gifted with for this museum. Paul and Gayle Gross' notable gift to us made such a difference, not only for our museum account, but also for our spirits. [Please visit our website BergenCountyHistory.org/Benefactors for a list of our donors.]

Stepping ahead a few centuries, I sometimes find myself looking out across the meadow, where games of vintage baseball are played... As corny as it sounds, how can you not think, "If you build it, they will come."

BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 55, RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661
BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG
DEBORAH POWELL & PATTY DAURIZIO
NEWSLETTER EDITOR & LAYOUT

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.

SUNDAY ✽ DECEMBER 7 ✽ 1:30 TO 3 PM

Dutch Colonial Tea with Sinter Klaas

In the charm of the Historic Campbell-Christie House Tavern. Tea, Coffee, Cider or Hot Chocolate is served with a variety of Classic Dutch Holiday Pastries & Finger Foods.

\$25 per adult \$10 per child - 12 & under

Seating is promptly at 1:30. Space is Limited. Reservations are required.

Go to: BergenCountyHistory.org/Events

GIFT SHOP IS OPEN FOR HOLIDAY PURCHASES



SATURDAY & SUNDAY ✽ DECEMBER 13 & 14

AN ENCHANTING EVENING IN THE HISTORIC STEUBEN HOUSE

BCHS 42ND Annual Holiday Concerts

WITH
**Linda Russell
& Companie**

Saturday ~ December 13
5:00 and 6:45 PM

Sunday ~ December 14
3:00 and 4:45 PM

\$35 NON-MEMBER

\$28 BCHS MEMBER

LIGHT TAVERN FARE
WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE
CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE
SAT • 4-8 PM SUN • 3:30-7 PM
GIFT SHOP IS OPEN FOR HOLIDAY PURCHASES

FOR DETAILS & TO RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW: BergenCountyHistory.org

ORDER YOUR TICKETS BY MAIL: BCHS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661

SPECIFY CONCERT DATE & TIME. LIST YOUR 1ST & 2ND CHOICE.

THURSDAY ✽ DECEMBER 18 ✽ 7:30 PM

FIRE SIDE STORIES & SONGS

WITH
Linda Russell

Snuggle up with a warm blanket & a cup of hot chocolate on the sofa for an evening of holiday lore & lyrics, with myths & stories of Yule as we reconnect to our past in this season of magic.

THIS IS A FREE ZOOM EVENT. DONATIONS WELCOMED. REGISTER AT BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG/EVENTS

SATURDAY ★ NOVEMBER 22 ★ 6 to 9 PM

**Dine with Gen. George Washington, Commander-in-Chief
and his Officers of the Continental Army**

★ ★ ★ **at Sanzari's New Bridge Inn.** ★ ★ ★

For details & reservations: [BergenCountyHistory.org / Events](http://BergenCountyHistory.org/Events)

SUNDAY ★ NOVEMBER 23 ★ 10 AM to 4 PM

2025

★ NY ★ MA ★ NH ★ RI ★ PA ★ DE ★ NJ ★ VA ★ CT ★ MD ★ NC ★ SC ★ GA ★



Bergen County

249th

**of the
American
Revolution**

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



General Washington
by John Koopman

RETREAT TO VICTORY

November 23rd

**Dinner with
Washington
November 22,
by reservation**

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

**Washington leads the
troops over the New Bridge**
as described by Thomas Paine

Event Hosts:



The Brigade of the
American Revolution

2 Skirmishes

**Fife & Drum performances
Drilling & Fortifying the
Steuben House**



3^d Reg't of Foot,
Light Infantry Co.



3^d NJ Reg't,
the "Jersey Grays"



The 3^d New Jersey
Bergen County
Historical Society
501 (c)(3) non-profit
all-volunteer

The c.1752

**Steuben House,
Rev War Collections,
Historic Homes
Barn, Outkitchen,
Gift Shop & Tavern
Open for Tours**

throughout the day



Historic New Bridge Landing

1201 Main St, River Edge, NJ

More info: BergenCountyHistory.org

BCHS EVENTS Bergen County Historical Society