

# IN BERGEN'S ATTIC

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings fellow members and I hope you are doing well. I have exciting news; the DEP permitting process to build our new museum is accepted! *Huzzah!* This has been a long time coming and we are anxious to keep moving forward. Of course this also means we need to step up our fundraising so we can reach our goal. We are very appreciative to everyone who worked on this process with us and the generous donors who share our dream of a climate controlled storage space for the collections (we began collecting at our founding in 1902,) increased space for exhibits

We are celebrating getting past a major hurdle with obtaining the DEP Permit. The new Museum is really happening at Historic New Bridge Landing.



ARTIST RENDERING OF THE ANTICIPATED KEVIN WRIGHT MUSEUM BUILDING AT HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING

and programs, an added outdoor theater space and ADA restroom accessibility. Such good news to go along with celebrating our 120 years as an all-volunteer, independent, non-profit organization promoting and preserving US history and Bergen County in particular. More good news is all events have returned to HNBL! There will be an exciting **Retreat Weekend**, so join us on Sunday November 20th for the first battle at 11:30AM and stay for house tours, a bridge tour, a lecture about General Greene's wife, with a second battle at 2:00PM and kids activities. Tavern fare will be available in the Campbell-Christie House. For the holiday season is **Sinter Klaas Day Open House** on December 4 and we are happy to welcome back the popular **BCHS Christmas Concerts** in the Steuben House with Linda Russell and Companie, so check your calendars for Saturday December 17th and Sunday December 18th, and get your tickets on our website at [BergenCountyHistory.org](http://BergenCountyHistory.org) I wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Carol Restivo, President

# Military Objects: THE STORY OF HNBL IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR

DEBORAH POWELL



(superintendent at Ringwood State Park) contact and the divers used sonar to try and find it, initially without success. Diver Timothy Andro reported they are waiting for cold weather to return and are devising new longer probes as they surmised it would be deep in the mud.

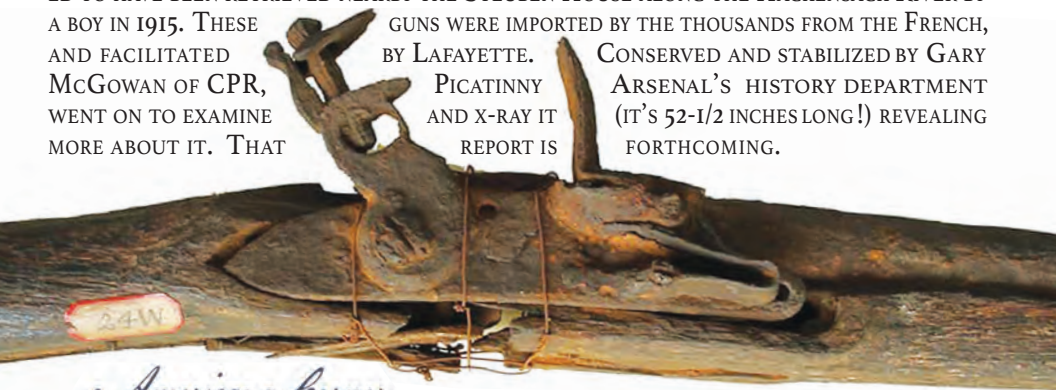
## WE HAVE TWO MILITARY OBJECTS THAT HAVE RECEIVED EXTRAORDINARY ATTENTION THIS YEAR:

Our missing cannon received much attention when we shared information that past trustee Reg McMahon reported in 1980 about it's disappearance from near the front porch of the Steuben House, 100 feet from the Hackensack River and 184 feet from the center of the Swing Bridge. The Facebook post lit up with responses. The email blast reached other audiences. Responses had two theories, the estimated 1,200 lb object was thrown in the river by pranksters or that it was sold for scrap metal. Diving teams from Northeast Public Safety Divers & North Jersey Regional Scuba Taskforce responded to Eric Pain's



THE CANNON, "OLD BERGEN", WHEN IT SAT IN FRONT OF THE STEUBEN HOUSE. DIVERS PREP BY THE BRIDGE TO SEARCH IN THE HACKENSACK RIVER.

WE APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED A \$6,000 GRANT FROM AMERICANA CORNER, A PRIVATE FOUNDATION, FOR CONSERVATION OF THE CHARLEVILLE MUSKET. THE MUSKET WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN RETRIEVED NEARBY THE STEUBEN HOUSE ALONG THE HACKENSACK RIVER BY A BOY IN 1915. THESE GUNS WERE IMPORTED BY THE THOUSANDS FROM THE FRENCH, AND FACILITATED BY LAFAYETTE. CONSERVED AND STABILIZED BY GARY MCGOWAN OF CPR, PICATINNY ARSENAL'S HISTORY DEPARTMENT WENT ON TO EXAMINE AND X-RAY IT (IT'S 52-1/2 INCHES LONG!) REVEALING MORE ABOUT IT. THAT REPORT IS FORTHCOMING.



*Americana Corner*



**PLEASE NOTE:** WE DO NOT ALLOW DIGGING, METAL DETECTING OR METAL FISHING AT THE SITE. IF YOU DO HAVE ARTIFACTS FOUND AT THE SITE PLEASE BRING THEM IN AND NOTE WHERE YOU FOUND THEM BEFORE THEIR CONNECTION TO NEW BRIDGE'S HISTORY IS LOST FOREVER.

RIGHT: AT THE MILL'S CORNER, HISTORIAN ROBERT RUBNER EXPLAINED HOW THE TIDE MILL WORKS. BELOW: THE BRIDGE OVER THE TIDE GATE. THE TIDE POND IS TO THE RIGHT.



## TRIP TO THE VAN WYCK-LEFFERTS TIDE MILL, AUGUST 2022 WORTH THE VISIT!

PRESIDENT CAROL RESTIVO DROVE BCHS BOARD MEMBERS; PATTY SAYER, PATTY DAURIZIO, MURIEL ROBERTS, & DEBORAH POWELL TO SCENIC PUPPY COVE/HUNTINGTON HARBOR LOCATED ON LONG ISLAND SOUND. WE WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE HUNTINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S PROGRESS WITH MILL, ONE OF THE BEST PRESERVED TIDE MILLS & MILL POND IN THE COUNTRY. THEY NOW HAVE THE SECOND & THIRD FLOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. AFTER TRAVELING BY A SHORT BOAT RIDE TO REACH THE GRAY CEDAR SHINGLED BUILDING, ROBERT RUBNER GAVE AN INTERESTING HISTORY OF THE MILL & HOW IT FUNCTIONED, TRANSFERRING POWER FROM THE HORIZONTAL WHEEL TO THE INTERIOR GEARS TO DO DIFFERENT JOBS THROUGHOUT THE MILL. HISTORIAN KEVIN WRIGHT THOUGHT OUR TIDE MILL AT NEW BRIDGE LOOKED VERY MUCH LIKE THIS MILL. UNFORTUNATELY, THE ACKERMAN-ZABRISKIE TIDE MILL, POWERED BY THE HACKENSACK RIVER TWICE A DAY, BURNED DOWN IN 1853.



INSIDE THE MILL: SOME OF THE HANDMADE WOOD GEARS THAT TURN TO RUN THE TIDE MILL. NOTICE THE WEAR FROM YEARS OF USE

UPCOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECTS, MADE POSSIBLE WITH FUNDING TO THE HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING STATE PARK COMMISSION FROM THE STATE OF NJ, WILL REVEAL MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MILL & OUR INLAND SEAPORT, NEW BRIDGE LANDING.

INSIDE THE MILL: PAIR OF GRINDING MILL STONES.

# Why do we celebrate THANKSGIVING in late November?

KEVIN WRIGHT



As compared with present consumption, the colonial diet included relatively little fresh meat. Families reared swine and turkeys in great numbers and those destined for winter market were fenced in an appropriate place at the lower end of the garden. Pork was preferred over beef, except among Jewish colonists whose religious observance proscribed its consumption. Pigs generously fattened on forest mast, field pumpkins, buckwheat, and a sweet mash of skimmed milk and bran.

Fresh meat was most abundantly available in late November when farmers thinned their herds, determining what cattle might be sheltered and fed over winter. As much fresh meat as possible was consumed with the fruits of the harvest, explaining the timing of our traditional Thanksgiving feast. Surplus livestock either walked to market on hoof or were butchered. It was at this season, in late November or early December, when mud roads were frozen and thus

passable, farmers and drovers customarily made their "Big Trip" to city market, clogging highways and tavern yards en route with their cattle. They also purchased their goods of city merchants on such occasions. In one well known example, as many as a hundred farmers, coming from Sussex County and beyond, might put up for the night in hotels near the Red Mill on the Saddle River in Paramus, resting en route to city markets. Indeed, in times before the railroad made the "Big Trip" obsolete, several taverns prospered along Paramus Road. The most popular was Polly Brevoort's hotel, which stood on the west side of the Saddle

River in Fair Lawn, where a solitary fiddler named Yean Moore provided entertainment for the old-time dances, when a row of candles illuminated the balconies of the dance-hall.

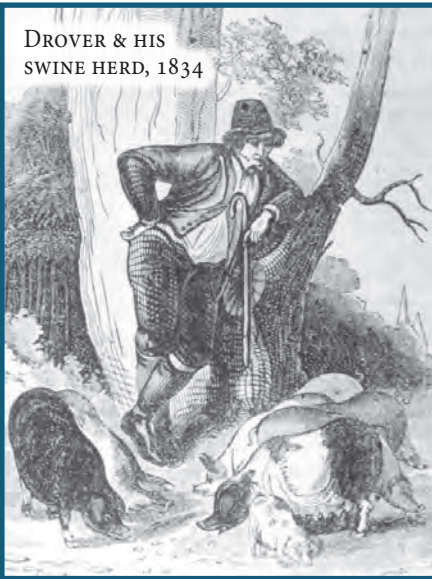
With winter's onset, neighbors joined together in employing a "sticker" to expertly butcher fattened hogs. Families set to work before daylight, lighting fires to heat great cauldrons of water for scalding "stuck" hogs to loosen the bristles. After scraping on a table, dressed carcasses were hung on a scaffold by the heels for butchering. Women generally prepared choice cuts for a community dinner. On this occasion, neighbors received liberal presents of pork, sausages, headcheese, or other products of the pig. The farmer who raised the heaviest porker remained the object of gossip over apple toddy for several days. As salting, pickling, smoking or drying were the only available means of preservation, most cellars regularly stored barrels of salted, pickled or smoked pork as well as smoked beef.

Besides swine, beef cattle, sheep, chickens and turkeys, geese, ducks, pigeons and wild game supplied meat for the table. Clearing the land however, rapidly diminished some game species, particularly deer, which became increasingly scarce near long-settled farmlands and villages.

We conclude by offering the proclamation of Governor William Livingston, who declared Thursday, December 9, 1779, as a day of Thanksgiving for the citizens of New Jersey, and especially expressing gratitude for the alliance with France:

CHATHAM, NOVEMBER 16.

By His Excellency  
WILLIAM LIVINGSTON, Esq;  
Governor, Captain, General and  
Commander-in-Chief in and over the State of  
New-Jersey, said Territories thereunto  
belonging. Chancellor and Ordinary in the Same.



DROVER & HIS  
SWINE HERD, 1834

CHATHAM, NOVEMBER 16.  
A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the honorable Congress, by their resolution of the twentieth day of October last, reciting, "That it becomes us humbly to approach the throne of Almighty God, with gratitude and praise, for the wonders which His goodness has wrought in conducting our forefathers to this Western world; for his protection to them and to their posterity, amid difficulties and dangers; for raising us their children from deep distress to be numbered among the nations of the earth; and for arming the hands of just and mighty princes in our deliverance; and, especially, for that he hath been pleased to grant us the enjoyment of health, and so to order the revolving seasons, that the earth hath produced her increase in abundance, blessing the labour of the husbandman, and spreading plenty through the land; that he hath prospered our arms and those of the ally; been a shield to our troops in the hour of danger, pointed their swords to victory, and led them in triumph over the bulwarks of the foe; that he hath gone with those who went into the wilderness against the savage tribes; that he hath stayed the hand of the spoiler, and turned back his meditated destruction; that he hath prospered our commerce, and given success to those who fought the enemy on the face of the deep; and, above all, that he hath diffused the glorious light of the gospel, whereby, through the merits of our gracious Redeemer we may become the heirs of his eternal glory;" did recommend it to the several States to appoint Thursday the ninth day of December next, to be observed as a day of public thanksgiving and praise;—and did further recommend, that, together with devout thanksgiving, may be joined in humble supplication for the continuance of his favor and protection to these United States; to beseech him that he would be graciously pleased to influence our public councils, and bless them with wisdom from on high, with unanimity, firmness, and success; that he would go forth with our hosts, and crown our arms with victory; that he would grant to his church the plentiful effusions of divine grace, and pour out his holy spirit on all ministers of the gospel; that he would bless and prosper the means of education, and spread the light of Christian knowledge through the farthest corners of the

earth; that he would smile upon the labors of his people and cause the earth to bring forth her fruits in abundance, that we may with gratitude and gladness enjoy them; that he would take into his holy protection our illustrious Ally, give him victory over his enemies, and render him signally great, as the father of his people, and the protector of the rights of mankind; that he would be graciously pleased to turn the hearts of our enemies, and to dispense the blessings of peace to contending nations; that he would in mercy look down upon us, pardon all our sins, and receive us into his favor; and, finally, that he would establish the Independence of these United States upon the basis of religion and virtue, and support and protect them in the enjoyment of peace, liberty and safety.

I HAVE therefore thought fit, by and with the advice of the honorable Privy Council of this State, to appoint THURSDAY the said ninth day of DECEMBER next, to be set, apart and observed throughout this State, as a day of public THANKSGIVING and PEACE, for the purposes in the above resolution set forth; whereof all the inhabitants of this State are hereby required to take notice and govern themselves accordingly. And, I DO hereby recommend it to the ministers of the gospel of every denomination in this State, to perform divine service, and to the people committed to their charge to attend on public worship on that day, and to abstain from all servile labor, and all recreation inconsistent with the solemnity of the festival.

GIVEN under my hand and seal at arms, in Mount-Holly, the ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine, and the fourth year of the independence of America.

WIL. LIVINGSTON.  
By His Excellency's Command,  
BOWES REED, Sec'y.  
GOD SAVE THE PEOPLE



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*Historian Kevin Wright was a prolific writer and as surviving widow I have a paper carton of manuscripts and digital files. Some of this work will go into new books, but others I've been publishing as standalone articles to populate the page on our website "Research PDFs."*

**HAPPENING AT HNBL**

BCHS Volunteers Pat Korczak, & Dianne Mills, & Vicki Kirlick, spent two days in October with Out Kitchen cooks Andrea Jenner & Patty Daurizio to learn about Bergen County Dutch Foodways with 18th century recipes & tools like those used 300 years ago.



Top: Preparing an Apple Galette, French Root Soup, Dutch Spek met Appelpjes & Pancakes in the OK.  
Bottom: Andrea explains the Bake Oven, & preparing a Simple Bread, Soul Cakes & Demon Cake.

**In Memoriam - Manfred D. Wegner [1936-2022]** was an amazing person. His childhood was spent under the brutal regime of the Nazis. Later, the Communists in Germany made him an extraordinary witness to history, and his escape from East Berlin was a gutsy and clever one. To hear such first hand stories made me realize fully how protected and even sheltered we have been in the US. He was an extremely talented craftsman, not just in wood. What he didn't know about woodworking wasn't worth knowing, and was accomplished in photography and drawing as well. The tips he gave for projects were always welcome. He was generous with both his knowledge and his humor, always appreciating a quick comeback to his teasing. A fixture at HNBL and an immense help, Manfred built the 3 tall paneled pedestals for the maquette of Steuben, the Cigar-Store Indian, our entry/admissions stand in the Steuben House foyer, and a large quilt storage unit among other projects. He assisted in constructing the extensive shelving for the BCBS Collections. Besides always fixing items, and grounds / building projects, he fashioned scroll-work ornaments to sell in the giftshop. He made himself available whenever needed. He will be missed and remembered by many.

MANFRED MADE THE WOOD STORAGE RACK FOR QUILTS IN BCBS COLLECTIONS.



**18th CENTURY COOKING IN THE OUT KITCHEN & BAKING IN THE BAKE OVEN**

**HAPPENING AT HNBL**

**KIDS & HNBL HISTORY**

One of the reasons that people come to the museum site is interest in the American Revolution. Another popular connection is through families and their children, so children's activities are planned at each event. Kevin Wright felt that families visiting our museum site at events was the significant experience for children compared to school groups where students are often very distracted with socializing. Sometimes as an interpreter during the tour, we just have to step back when a parent or older family member wants to show, explain an artifact to the child and what they know about it. The adult may have learned about it themselves at a previous visit, but forming those generational connections are golden.



Families decorating pumpkins at Baronfest 2022

**FAMILY FUN DUTCH CHRISTMAS**

**Sinter Klaas Day**  
**Sun · Dec 4 1-4 PM**  
**OPEN-HOUSE**

- Explore the Historic Houses
- Walk the Bridge
- Dutch Cooking
- Hot Chocolate
- Dutch Cookies & Donuts
- Meet Sinter Klaas



**Go, Check It Out!**  
HNBL has 5 Interpretive Signs and the QR Code Scavenger Hunt.  
Two more ways to discover the history at HNBL

**LIVE IN THE HISTORIC STEUBEN HOUSE**  
**BCBS 39th Annual Christmas Concerts**

with **Linda Russell & Companie**  
**Saturday & Sunday ~ December 17 & 18 at 6 & 7:45**



**Tavern Fare AT THE Campbell-Christie House**

**\$35 non-member**  
**\$28 member**

RESERVE NOW & FOR DETAILS:  
**BergenCountyHistory.org**

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

**Join the Festivities**

# EVENTS AT NEW BRIDGE 1776



## Bergen County

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

## Remembering the People & Places that Shaped a Country



RETREAT TO VICTORY The 3rd New Jersey

# November 20th

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Historic New Bridge Landing

1201 Main St, River Edge, NJ



John Koopman  
/ Washington leads the  
troops over the New Bridge  
**Arrives at 11:30 am**  
with General Greene

## 2 Skirmishes

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

## Children's Activities

Skirmishes



Bergen County  
Historical Society

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

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](mailto:INFO@BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG)

BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 55, RIVER EDGE, NJ 07661  
[BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG](http://BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG)

DEBORAH POWELL & PATTY DAURIZO  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR & LAYOUT