



In Bergen's Attic

Greetings. I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to support our local history. It is through your support that the Bergen

President's Message

County Historical Society is able to stick to its mission since 1902, to develop public appreciation for Bergen County's remarkable history, especially through the preservation and study of its material culture. I wanted to take this opportunity and introduce myself as your new President. I have always been a person that has had a passion for history. Growing up in bucolic Warren County, a simple drive down the road transported you to a place and time that was very different than where you previously were. It was in this setting that I was raised, developing a strong work ethic and learning from my father to lead by example. This passion for history followed me to Washington, D.C., where I met my future wife, and lifelong Bergen County resident in the halls of C.U. After moving to Bergen County, I began to notice the amazing structures that still exist within our County and started to wonder, who lived in these beautiful historic houses, who sat in the pews of these ancient churches and how did my adoptive County come to be? It was from this that

I eventually made my way to an event sponsored by the Bergen County Historical Society and have been involved ever since.

The past year has seen the Historical Society face many challenges, mainly centered around Super Storm Sandy, the



impact that it had at Historic New Bridge Landing and on our collection that was stored at an off site warehouse in Harrison, NJ. Trees that fell during the storm were recycled and used to line a new pathway to the out kitchen. Three new trees were planted to replace the ones lost. Artifacts that were damaged off site are currently going through the restoration process, along with receiving help from volunteers to care for items not covered under insurance. Yet despite these challenges, the Bergen County Historical Society has remained strong and continues to grow as an organization and move forward.

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Naming Rights Available

by BCHS Past-President Deborah Powell

Below is an image for a museum barn building that we have been working on. Some of the considerations include a building that is in keeping with the historic character of the site as well as positioned to visually block out nearby modern intrusions and most importantly, elevated well above super-storm levels.

BCHS is the main repository of the material culture of the County! Help us preserve it.

Included in this newsletter is a remittance envelop. Please consider including us in your gift-giving plans this year. There is also a link on the BCHS website for PayPal if you prefer. <http://www.bergencountyhistory.org/Pages/BCHSContribute.html>.

Members **Wayne** and **Barbara Thoen** of Teaneck kicked off the season with a very generous donation to the museum fund in the "Society" category.

If you know someone in a company you think would be interested in contributing to a museum building about Bergen County history, please pass their information along! We welcome corporate members. contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org

The Bergen County Historical Society, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) volunteer organization, was founded in 1902 to develop public appreciation for Bergen County's remarkable history. We are the largest landowner at HNBL. We are not a government agency and do not received public operating funds, we rely on private donations and membership.

Yes, I want to contribute



Horse & Sleigh from the Haring Quilt

Overheard at the Wine Festival *I feel like I'm on a farm in upstate New York!*



Fundraising Update by BCHS Trustee John Eiel

As the dust settles and we have a chance to reflect on our first Wine Festival, we would like to thank all those who volunteered, sponsored or attended our largest and most successful fundraising event to date. With a crowd of over 1600 people and \$15,000 raised, we moved closer to our goal of building Bergen County's only all-county inclusive history museum. Those who attended got a chance to sample and purchase product from seven local New Jersey wineries. We also had local vendors selling fine food to enjoy while listening to great local musicians under the tent. And all this in the scenic setting of Historic New Bridge Landing. The historic houses were full of interested folk who were not only repeat visitors, sampling our latest fare, but also many new comers, who were pleasantly surprised by everything we had to offer. Families came ready to picnic and enjoy a beautiful day on our picturesque riverscape. It was perfect weather and everyone enjoyed some great local vintage while learning about our historic past.

We plan to do this event and others like it in future, so keep checking our website and look for our great programs and fundraising events to come. As we are an all-volunteer organization and these events take a lot of effort, volunteers are most welcome. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to us through our web site. Thank you again and see you next year. — **John Eiel, Fundraising Chairman**

Your name here?



Photos and rendering by D. Powell

Thanks again to our sponsors!

American Legion Posts 142, 226 & 272
The family of Gerard and Mary Donohue and their daughters, sons, spouses, grands and greats...

Outwater's Militia
Feiler Dental Associates

Columbia Bank Let It Grow, Inc.
mNovak Design **PSEG**

River Edge
Diner & Restaurant
1ST ANNUAL
Mayor's Winemaking Competition
Sponsored by Winemaker's Cellar, Hawthorne
Portion of Entry Fee donated to BCHS

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“the conclusion of an arduous and important War...”

by BCHS Past President Todd Braisted

What began on an April morning in Lexington, Massachusetts in 1775, officially ended on a September day in 1783 at the Hotel d'York, when the Treaty of Paris was signed in that city. The American Revolution had ended, and the United States of America was officially recognized in her independence by Great Britain. The war was over.

For Bergen County, the conflict had taken place more or less from July 1776, when fortifications were commenced along the Hudson and opposite Staten Island, until October 1782, when Thomas Ward and his Refugees evacuated Fort DeLancey at Bergen Point. The British had ceased all offensive actions in the spring of 1782, although their presence would remain until 22 November 1783, the day the fort at Paulus Hook was evacuated. Sir Guy Carleton, last British Commander in Chief in America, and his troops, would leave New York City three days later. It would be celebrated for years afterwards as “Evacuation Day.”

With the British Army, hundreds of Bergen County Loyalists and their families had likewise departed. Some 134 residents of the county had their properties confiscated by the State of New Jersey for remaining loyal to King George, ranging from small farmers like John Eckerson of Cresskill to the huge landed estate of William Bayard at Hoboken. Such prominent Bergen County leaders as Abraham Van Buskirk, Daniel Isaac Browne, Peter Ruttan and Robert Timpany would spend the remaining part of



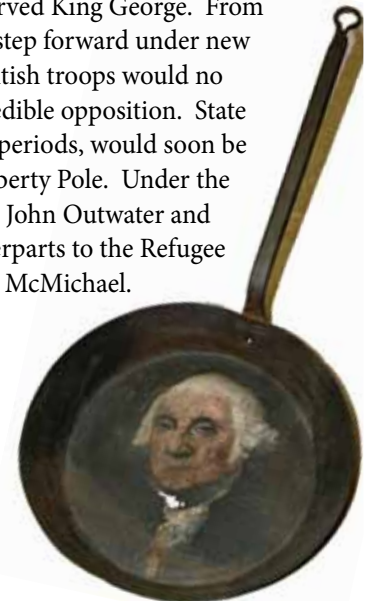
Washington
by Charles Willson Peale, 1780-1782

their lives on distant shores, mostly in what are now the Canadian Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

For those who had stood by the new United States in its darkest hours, peace would bring not just the absence of war, but a degree of prosperity. Many of the stone houses we are familiar with around the county can owe their origin to the infusion of state money (some of which undoubtedly coming from the sale of Loyalist estates) used to compensate residents for their losses at the hands of both the British and Continental armies. Hackensack Township, located on the east side of the river, certainly suffered considerably during the war. Peter Bourdet, on whose land Fort Lee was built, suffered the loss of over £ 160 in property by George Washington's Army alone.

Bergen County's Militia, led by Colonel Theunis Dey, doggedly played a role in the conflict. The citizen soldiers of the county evolved as the war progressed. When Revolutionary fervor sprung forth in 1776, the militia eagerly worked on fortifications, helped garrison New York City, and even provided three standing companies for five months service in Van Cortland's Battalion of Nathaniel Heard's Brigade. With the British triumphs of the New York Campaign, the militia more or less melted away. Leading officers such as John Zabriskie, Isaac Noble, Peter Ruttan, John Hammell and Abraham Van Buskirk went over to the British and served King George. From those dark days though, several hundred men would step forward under new officers and begin to learn the art of war. By 1780, British troops would no longer be able to roam parts of the county without credible opposition. State troops, militia serving continuously for multi-month periods, would soon be fixtures at places like Hackensack, New Bridge and Liberty Pole. Under the command of men such as John Mauritius Goetschius, John Outwater and Peter Ward, these troops would prove effective counterparts to the Refugee raids of Thomas Ward, William Harding and Edward McMichael.

When hostilities ceased and peace was at hand, the county's militia could look back on their efforts with satisfaction and pride. They also used the opportunity to give a final mark of respect to the army's commander-in-chief, George Washington. Washington had certainly spent his share of time in the county, being headquartered at various times in Preakness, Hackensack, Paramus and of course New Bridge. Philip Sloate, a Pompton militiaman in Captain Joseph Board's Company, recalled years later that “Genl. Washington reviewed the said [Joseph Board's] Company and [Bergen County Militia] Regiment at Hackensack, while on ‘parade.’” The militia also used their address to Washington to remind of their services, which he kindly acknowledged. It was time for everyone now to resume their lives and found a country.



Rachel Bourdette's frying pan, used to cook buckwheat pancakes for General Washington's breakfast in November 1776. With his portrait the family ensured the story would stay with the object. Photo by D. Powell

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[Address of the Bergen County Militia to George Washington]

To His Excellency George Washington

Esqr. Commander in Chief of the Armies
of the United States &c.

May it please your Excellency

The Officers of the Battalion of Militia of the County of Bergen beg leave to congratulate your Excellency on the conclusion of an arduous and important War, and the reestablishment of the Blessing of Peace.

Actuated by the principles of Virtue and of Patriotism your Excellency undertook the difficult Task of conducting the operations of the Field against a Powerful and enraged Enemy, and the Success with which it has pleased God to bless your measures together with the self applauding consciousness, which a rectitude of Conduct cannot fail to inspire must certainly yield you inexpressible Satisfaction and render your self enjoyment compleat.

Having ourselves experienced in a small degree the fatigues of a military Life we are the more sensible of the pleasure your Excellency must feel in a relief from the tumults of War and a return to the enjoyments of private Life and we ardently wish your Excellency in your retirement as great a degree of Happiness as this Life will admitt.

by order and in behalf of the Officers of the Battalion —

J. Mauritius Goetschius
Major

Hackinsack 10th Novr. 1783.

[George Washington's Reply to the officers of the Bergen County Militia]
To the Officers of the Battalion of Militia of the County of Bergen in New Jersey.

Gentlemen

I participate most sincerely in the joy you express at the conclusion of the War, and the re-establishment of the blessings of Peace.

Persuaded of the rectitude of our cause, and relying on the divine aid for its success, I accepted an arduous employment, - the event has justified my most enlarged expectation; and if to the consciousness of having attempted faithfully to discharge my duty I may add the approbation of my fellow Citizens, my happiness will be compleat.

To you, Gentn, who have experienced in no small degree the fatigues of a Military life, I must return these my last public thanks for the cheerful and able assistance you have afforded me. May you, as a reward of your virtuous conduct, enjoy the uninterrupted fruits of that Independence which has been procured at the hazard of our Lives.

G[eorge] W[ashington]

[November 10, 1783.] ❖

The above letters may be found in The Library of Congress, George Washington Papers, Series 4, General Correspondence, September 2, 1783 – December 28, 1783.



Historical Essays on the Sesquicentennial of New Jersey (1664-2014)

Settlement of Kindockamack Upon the Hackinsack River
By BCHS Past President Kevin Wright

Like many of his time and place, David Des Marest led an unsettled life, pursued by the dogs of war, uprooted by violent storms of religious fanaticism and rerouted by claims of ethnic identity. He was born to Jean Des Marets and Marguerite De Herville at Beauchamp, Picardy, in northern France, in or about 1620, the year in which King Louis XII pushed for restoration of Catholic rights in Huguenot strongholds in southwestern France. Huguenots responded forcefully, assembling at New Rochelle on December 25, 1620 to build their own government and military power. Animosities flamed again into armed rebellion when the King reneged on a negotiated armistice in 1625. King Charles I of England sent a fleet and army to their aid at the start of the Anglo-French War in 1627, fueling yet a third uprising against His Most Catholic Majesty. Upon the defeat and departure of English expeditionary forces, Cardinal Richelieu took command of the royal French army in its siege of New Rochelle, culminating in devastating losses for the city and its defenders. After several more defeats, Huguenot leaders negotiated a settlement in September 1629 that retained religious freedoms under the Treaty of Nantes and secured a general amnesty, but which also surrendered their independent army, fortresses and claims to self-government, leaving them vulnerable to further suppression.

Dynastic rivalries as well as sectarian hatred animated this conflict, which must be viewed in the context of the larger international contest known as the Thirty Years' War. Consequent to the great rivalry between Bourbon France and Habsburg Spain for European ascendancy, troops from the Spanish Netherlands invaded

and devastated northern France in 1635. Though initially successful, the Spanish were narrowly defeated at the battle of Rocroi in the Ardennes after Walloon and German troops abandoned them in May 1643, forcing a negotiated surrender and retreat.

Sufferings and cruelty prevailed. At some point in this tumultuous score of years, Jean and Marguerite Des Marets fled their home, joining a colony of French and Walloon refugees at Middelburg, provincial capital of the island of Walcheren in Zeeland. David completed his adolescence there, marrying Marie Sohier, daughter of Francois and Margrietta Sohier, Walloon refugees from Nieppe in Belgium, on July 24, 1643. Their son Jean was born at Middelburg on April 14, 1645. Fearing and fleeing the inhumane Inquisition of Phillip II of Spain, lord of the Spanish Netherlands, they joined a Protestant exodus to Mannheim in the Rhineland-Palatinate in 1650, accepting protection of Charles Lewis, Elector of the Lower Palatinate. Once settled, they organized their own French Reformed congregation.

Two sons were born to David and Marie Des Marest during their stay at Mannheim, namely, David in 1652 and Samuel in 1656. Caught once more in the rivalry between the French King and Spanish Habsburgs, which threatened their latest place of refuge, the family boarded the *Bonte Koe* (Brindled Cow) at Texel on April 16, 1663, for transport to New Netherland, paying 175 florins and 10 stivers as passage and board for husband, wife "& 4 Children of 18, 11, 6 and 1 years." They first settled upon Staten Island, where they joined in organizing a French Reformed congregation. In 1665, the Demarests took up lands at New

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Harlem. On May 1, 1670, David Des Marest was listed as owner of house and farm lots totaling sixteen acres. In 1668, his son Jean married Jacomina, daughter of Simon De Ruine, a Walloon from Landrecy in Hainault. On March 3, 1671, David received his patent for a lot, 26 yards wide and 160 rods long, embracing 13 acres. He also purchased a house lot and farm from Johannes La Montagne with the crop sown thereon. Sadly, while pulling a sleigh on horseback, ten-year-old Pieter Oblinus, son of Joost Oblinus, accidentally ran over and killed David and Marie Demarest's five-year-old son Daniel in January 1672. In August 1673, David Demarest Sr. was appointed *schepen*.

David Demarest Jr. purchased a vacant lot in New Harlem at the estate sale of the late Lubbert Gerritsen in July 1674. Preserving their ethnic identity, Huguenot immigrants organized a French congregation at New Harlem, employing a "preacher" in 1674. Governor Francis Lovelace consequently ordained, "The French of the Town of New Harlem should be free as to contributing to the Dutch Voorleser." Consequently, David Demarest ceased making "Free-will Contributions for the support and salary of the Voorleser of this Town...." under an agreement dated October 23, 1670 (though not signed by any Demarest).

On October 3, 1676, Hendrick Jansen Vander Vin, Voorleser or Parish Clerk at New Harlem, complained his house was unfit for occupancy. It was accordingly ordered that the schoolhouse be adapted for his residence through the installation of a bedroom (*bedstede*), chimney and mantle, combined with repairs to doors and windows. It was decided "to repair the old house the following spring." David Demarest Sr. was required to work in "the loft," to put on a door-lock, and to glaze windows. David Demarest Jr., however, refused to contribute to the repairs and

was fined 12 guilders for court costs, payable to the Deacons. By this time, David Demarest Sr. was on the move once again, intending to establish a French



colony on the Hackensack River, where thirty or forty families, transported from Europe, would be settled. David Demarest, Sr. and his son David sold their properties at New Harlem to Paulus Richard, a New York merchant, respectively on March 12 and April 12, 1677. David Demarest Sr. reserved use and occupancy of his house at New Harlem until May 1, 1677, on which date he planned to take his family, and Jacques Le Rue, to the site of their proposed colony. On April 14, David Demarest appeared before the Mayor's Court, stating his intention to depart town, but agreeing grudgingly to pay arrears for the voorleser's maintenance. To the magistrates, he remarked, "You people are my enemies, and seek but to drive me into costs." David Demarest Jr. paid up his arrears on April 23, 1677. His father settled his accounts three days later.

On June 8, 1677, David Demarest

purchased a broad expanse of river plain in the upper Hackensack valley from the Tappan Indians. Contrary to popular belief, this purchase from the native proprietors did not secure clear title to these lands, which previously had been patented to East Jersey Proprietors James Bollen and Matthias Nichols on July 30, 1669. Nicholls' claim to lands in the French Patent was not resolved until 1693, while Bollen's claim was not resolved until 1717. A road return for River Road between Bogota and the Oradell Flatts, dated November 23, 1717, includes a rough description of several lateral highways and mentions the property lines of John Demarest and Samuel Demarest Jr., but does not indicate any houses along the River Road on the river plain (now New Milford), between French Creek and River Edge Avenue in New Milford. Interestingly, the oldest dated stone in the Old French Burial Ground in New Milford is inscribed "1721," suggesting settlement of this neighborhood after James Bollen's 1717 quitclaim deed.

The first house in which David Des Marest resided was probably located "on the East side of the Hackensack and doubtless very near to his mills at the Old Bridge." On October 7, 1678, seven adult members of the Demarest family, together with Jacques La Rou, united by certificate with the Bergen Reformed Church. They remained with this congregation until 1682. Daniel Du Voor, Jean Durie and Nicholas De Vaux soon joined David Demarest's new settlement. However, with title to lands in the French Patent unresolved, colonization focused on the west side of the river in the neighborhood originally known as *Kindockamack*. When Surveyor-General Robert Vauquellen surveyed sixteen acres on the west side of the river for David Demarest Sr. by warrant dated July 30, 1681, "the mill and mill-dam and the river" were cited as its eastern boundaries. This was the first grant of land made to a European settler within the bounds

of River Edge. David Demarest Sr. immediately settled upon this land in the vicinity of the gristmill, which stood at the river's edge, east of the intersection of Grove and Park Avenues. His wife Marie Sohier, and Jean's wife, Jacomyntie Dreuyne, both died around 1682. David Demarest was "dismissed" from the Dutch Reformed Church at Bergen (Jersey City) in 1682, allowing him to join the French Reformed congregation established by the Reverend Pierre Daille in the Dutch Reformed Church on Manhattan. He also established an "outstation" at Hackensack, probably following the same arrangement of meeting in the local Dutch Reformed Church.

David Demarest petitioned the Governor's Council on March 23, 1683, asking, "to have all the Timber in that Indian purchase for the supply of his saw mill, although the land [is] not patented to him and his sons..." The Council had no problem with issuing patents for properly surveyed lands, but could not



Demarest "Heartstone" and mogram in wall of First Dutch Reformed Church on the Green in Hackensack. Photo by D. Powell

see any reason "to grant liberty to cut the timber from the land he takes not up until further matters appears than what is yet manifested..." On May 29, 1684, David and Samuel Demarest again petitioned the Council, "setting forth that they have an Indian deed of gift for a tract of land on Hackingsacke River, containing 300 Acres or there about — Desire liberty that they

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have a conveyance thereof— “to which the Council agreed, stipulating a formal survey be made and quit-rents set.

On October 15, 1684, the Governor and Proprietors of East Jersey agreed to purchase of Memmess (aka Memsha), a Tappan sachem, Seythepoey, Korand (aka Coovange), Mettachmahon, Rawtom, Jan Claes, Mendenmass (aka Mendewmass), Mettetoeh, Hepenemaw, Marenaw (aka Mareque) and Hayamakeno (aka Hayankeno) “a tract of land lying and being upon Hackinsack River, bounded on the south and east by the Hackensack River and Korand’s land [in northern River Edge], a little below a great rock lying in the river, running from the said river northwest unto a place called Kaharos [Weirimus or perhaps Paramus?], from thence running along Peskeckie [Pascack] Creek northeasterly unto Metchipakos [Musquapsink] Creek, so running along the said Creek southeasterly unto Hackensack River, and so along the said river unto Korand’s land.” Within one year’s time, the buyers were to pay ten waistcoats, eight kettles, six blankets, two stroudwaters, six guns, two pistols, five shirts, five pairs of stockings, ten quarts of gunpowder, sixty bars of lead, ten hatchets, ten hoes, sixty knives, an anker of rum, fifteen fathoms of white wampum and four harpoons to the native proprietors of the land.

The true nature of the Demarests’ real estate dealings came to light on November 27, 1684, when a Tappan elder named Korough, a sachem who resided within the precincts of present-day River Edge and whose name is variously given as Kovand, Coovang and Corange, appeared before the Governor’s Council to complain against David Demarest “for purchasing a Certain parcel of Land lying on the west side of Hackinsacke River over against the [Saw] Mill of one Mumshaw, an Indian Sachem that had no Right to the Same (as is pretended) in wrong and Injury of the said Korough — And also of Some evil treatment of the Indians by the said David

De Mare and his family and John De Mare, his son, and in making them Drunk...” After hearing both sides, the Council reprimanded the Demarests “for their Evil practices towards the Indians in selling them Rum and making them Drunk,” demanding they provide security for their good behavior in future. Samuel Edsall and William Lawrence were appointed commissioners to investigate the disputed property and report back to the Council with their recommendations. The deed was finally signed October 8, 1685, before Samuel Edsall, William Lawrence, Albert Saborasky (Zabriskie), Lowrance Andress (Van Buskirk), Kobus (the Indian who marked the trees), and Samuel Demarest.

On January 5, 1686, East Jersey governor Gawen Lawrie received a patent for three parcels of land on the west bank of the Hackensack River, encompassing the recent Indian purchase: one of 1,520 acres, lying north of David Demarest and bounded north and west by unsurveyed lands; another tract of 643 acres, bounded south by John Demarest, north by David Demarest and west by unsurveyed land; and a third of 261 acres in River Edge bounded north by David Demarest, south by Albert Zabriskie and west by unsurveyed lands.

On July 27, 1686, the East Jersey Proprietors conveyed 261 acres in what was then Essex County to David Demarest Sr. The boundary survey began at a marked white oak tree standing on the river bank and ran 1,025 feet northeast along the river to a marked swamp oak tree standing on the river bank about 132 feet above the mill. The property extended 2.1 miles northwest to the Winocksack (Sprout) Brook. Demarest’s tract was bounded south by land of Daniel Rivers, east by the Hackensack River, north by land of John Durie, and west by the Winocksack Brook. Using modern landmarks, the 1686 tract of David Demarest Sr. extended from Wales Avenue south to the rear of the lots fronting the north side of Continental Avenue. To the east, near the river, Williams and

Center Avenues intersect Maple Place at the southwest line of the tract.

Reverend Pierre Daillé, the French Reformed minister, accepted charge of the Huguenot Church in Boston in 1696, departing his ministry of the outstations in Hackensack, on Staten Island, and at New Paltz. On April 5, 1696, David Demarest; his son Jean and his wife Merretje Van Winkle; granddaughter May, wife of Jacobus Slot, Jan Durie and Rachel Cresson (widow of David Demarest Jr.); and grandson David, joined the Dutch Reformed Church at Hackensack. David Desmarest, yeoman and miller of Essex County, died shortly thereafter, at about 76 years of age. According to his last will and testament, composed August 26, 1689, in New York City, and probated on July 30, 1697, he devised his real estate holdings to his three sons: John, David, and Samuel. Most curiously, he also left 100 acres to his maid Anna Counk. By the time his will was probated, his son David Demarest Jr. was already deceased and his widow remarried to John Durie Sr. An agreement was made on October 23, 1693, among John Demarest, Samuel Demarest and John Durie (acting as guardian of the children of David Demarest Jr., deceased) to regulate the use of the water power in the operation of their mills, namely, the Little Mill on the east side of the river, devised to John Demarest, the Great Corn Mill on the west side of the river in River Edge, and the saw mill.

So where is David Demarest Sr. buried? The purported burial of his wife, Marie Sohier, in the French Burying Ground in New Milford is purely a nineteenth-century supposition without foundation in historical fact or physical evidence. To the contrary, unresolved ownership of the French Patent at the time of her death in or about 1682 makes it an unlikely spot. Since David Demarest Sr. and his eldest son Jean, along with other Huguenots associated with the French colony, actually settled at Kinderkamack in what is now River Edge and Oradell, why not consider a burial site

there? The Voorhis Burying Ground in Oradell is situated upon an old road to a bridge crossing over the Hackensack River to the gristmill. This road is described in a 1716 deed as “a freedom [or right-of-way] unto the mill from ye River unto ye [Kinderkamack] Road or highway, being about three Acres of Land, which is reserved for ye free Passage unto the Mill.” Immediately south, near to New Milford Avenue, lies another largely forgotten possibility. In March 1871, stationmaster Jacob Van Buskirk employed a number of men to take down the embankment opposite to the old mill, on the west of the railroad track near the New Milford Depot, where they unearthed sixteen or seventeen skeletons that “lay in different directions,” but that were reportedly “all in an excellent state of preservation.” The workmen also turned up “a stone such as the Indians used for mashing corn and the remains of an old stone pot.” This “half of an old pot [was] extensively decorated in true Indian style.” Since there is no archaeological record of unearthing these skeletons, we cannot say whether or not the pottery was found in association with the burials or whether they were interments of the native Tappans or whether early settlers simply used a native cemetery for their own burials. In any case, Mr. Van Buskirk had the skeletons re-interred in a field located about a quarter of a mile lower down the track.

According to a division of the lands of David Demarest Sr., deceased, made September 30, 1709, John Demarest received the 261-acre tract on the west side of the river, including his father’s former dwelling. By his last will and testament, dated March 29, 1714, John Demarest, of New Barbadoes Township, devised the Little Mill Farm, situated on the east side of the Hackensack River at Old Bridge, to daughters, Sarah, wife of Abraham Canon, and Rachel, wife of Thomas Hyer, entailing the same property to their eldest sons, Isaac Canon and John Hyer. He sold this property to a nephew, Jacobus Demarest,

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sometime before his death, on October 16, 1719, and according to a revision of his will, he instead gave legacies of £140 to Sarah and Rachel. He devised “all that

and Antie Slot. He married Maritie Van Blarcom on December 10, 1720. They resided on his inherited land at Old Bridge in River Edge and had four children:



Three maps of northern New Jersey, with reference to the boundary between New York and New Jersey, 1769? Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington, D. C. 20540. The shaded area at the center of the map depicts from south to north, the Kiersted or Old Hackensack Patent, comprising the “neck of land” between the Hackensack River and Overpeck Creek, covering 2,260 acres, which Hackensack Sachem Oratam conveyed to Sarah Kiersted for her services as an interpreter in 1669. It extended north to about Cedar Lane in Teaneck. North of that, the New Hackensack Patent is shown, which Laurence Van Buskirk & Company purchased from the Hackensack sachem Tantaque in 1676. This tract extended from Cedar Lane north to New Bridge Road, where a “Great Indian field called the Indian Castle,” was located. To the north of this, David Demarest purchased the river plain in New Milford and Bergenfield, northward to the Oradell Flatts, in June 1677 from the Tappan Indians. Note the Kinderkamack Path running on the west side of the river and from south to north, east/west paths that became Passaic Street, Howland Avenue and Midland Avenue, all running west to Spring Valley Road in Paramus. Note also the ancestor of Old Hook Road, running south of the the confluence of Pascack Brook and the Hackensack River. Paramus Road runs north/south along the east bank of the Saddle River. Teaneck Path (Road) is also depicted, connecting southward with Fort Lee Road/Degraw Avenue/Main Street. Northward it continues as Washington Avenue/Schraalenburgh Road.

farm on ye west side of Hackensack River opposite to ye old Mill, whereon I do live [as of March 1714] to his grandson David Demarest, the son and heir of his eldest son David, and to “his male heirs forever, but in case of failure of male heirs I will that ye said farm as aforesaid do return to the sisters of my said grandson David Des Marest begotten by my said son David Des Marest, deceased, to be holden to them by an equal division, their heirs and assigns forever.” This grandson was born in 1701, the only son of David Demarest

Jacomina, born 1721; David, born 1723; Antie, born 1724; and Peter, born 1726. As their eldest son, David D. Demarest inherited the farm on the west side of the river. He married Caterina Seckor at the Schraalenburgh Church on July 10, 1748. As their five children were all girls, born between 1749 and 1761, the farm may have reverted to the sisters of John Demarest’s grandson, David Demarest, as required in his will. When David D. Demarest died in 1796, he was resident in the English Neighborhood and his last

will and testament made no provision for devising land at Old Bridge. References in other deeds indicate that Joost Zabriskie owned the house and land in River Edge at the time of his death on July 30, 1756. It then passed to his son-in-law, Johannes Demarest. Abraham J. Ackerman acquired that portion of the original tract, lying west of Kinderkamack Road, of which he sold eight acres to Beatus Goetschius on April 14, 1761. According to the boundary description included in this conveyance, Johannes Demarest owned land to the west of this property, perhaps extending as far as the Sprout Brook. He eventually also acquired the Goetschius tract, so that he owned approximately 50 acres, west of Kinderkamack Road.

On July 30, 1761, David Demarest, of Hackensack, issued a quit-claim, barring all estates, entail and remainders to a 270-acre farm at Old Bridge, to Alexander Watson, of Perth Amboy, Gentleman, and to George Ross, of Newark, for 5 Shillings, so that Alexander Watson would be made a perfect tenant of the freehold of said premises and further, before the end of the May term next, to permit George Ross to sue and prosecute out of Chancery Court one or more suits against Alexander Watson.” The premises were described as “that certain Farm, or Plantation lying in the county of Bergen in New Barbadoes Precinct on the West side of the Hackensack River opposite the Place where the old Mill stood, being the farm or plantation whereon David Demarest lived and died, the father of the above mentioned David Demarest, containing 270 acres, be the same more or less.” This farm was bounded easterly by the Hackensack River, southwesterly by the land of Albert Romeyn (who lived near the Borough Hall in River Edge), northwesterly by the Sprout Brook, and northeasterly by the lot of Peter Durie.

On July 3, 1766, David Demarest and his wife, Catherine Secor, sold “all that certain House or parcel of land lying and being by the Old Bridge, containing 47

acres, to Joost Van Buskirk. The boundary survey for this tract began at the King’s Road (now Kinderkamack Road) and ran northwest along the line of Albert Romine until it reached Albert Bogart’s lot of land, then continued north along Bogart’s line until it reached the line of Johannes Demarest, then ran southeast along Demarest’s line to the road, and ran south along the road to the beginning point. The “certain House” mentioned in the deed is the earliest documentary reference to the so-called Heritage House in River Edge. Joost A. Zabriskie, yeoman, of New Barbadoes Precinct, and his wife Rachel, were the next owners of this property, selling it on April 27, 1802, to Joost Demarest, of Hackensack Precinct, for \$2,500. By 1802, this lot of land was bounded to the west, and partly to the north, by lands of Nicausie Van Voorhis.

Let’s next consider the property to the north of David Demarest Sr. On July 27, 1686, the East Jersey Proprietors conveyed 261 acres to John Durie. The boundary survey began at a marked swamp oak standing by the Hackensack River, about two chains (132 feet) above Demarest’s Mill, and extended northwest about two-tenths of a mile to the Winocksack (Sprout) Brook, which today passes under Route #17 near Powers Drive in Paramus and flows along the eastern limits of the Ridgewood Country Club. The Durie tract was bounded north by “a highway” (now Midland Avenue), and south by lands of David Demarest Sr.—Wales Avenue and Grove Avenue in River Edge today mark the division line between the Durie and Demarest tracts. Peter Durie conveyed at least a portion of this tract, lying between Kinderkamack Road and the Hackensack River, to Daniel Christie. At that time, Kinderkamack Road ran between 375 and 400 feet further to the east than at present. On August 12, 1758, Daniel Christie conveyed 20 acres lying between Kinderkamack Road and the Hackensack River to Aert Cooper.

Aert (Arthur) Cooper, second son of
continued on page 14

Richard Cooper and Catherine Van Pelt, married Catherine Lozier on October 8, 1749. Their children were: Catherine, born October 16, 1750; Anna, born 1753; John, born September 1, 1757; Elisabeth, born June 11, 1759; Maria, born October 12, 1761; and Christina, born August 17, 1764. John, their only son, died young. Arthur and Catherine Cooper resided upon an 80-acre farm in Oradell and River Edge, situated on the east side of Kinderkamack Road. The home of David W. Christie at 56 Spring Valley Avenue is said to have “occupied the site where Arthur Cooper’s dwelling was doubtless located.” Arthur’s brother, Richard, purchased 150 acres from Albert Alyea, situated on the north side of Arthur’s farm. A highway (Midland) leading to Paramus was subsequently laid out and opened on the boundary between these two farms. Catherine Lozier Cooper, born April 10, 1749, died December 20, 1803. Her widower died November 5, 1814, aged 88 years, 1 month and 13 days. Both were buried at North Schraalenburgh Church (now Dumont).

Continuing north of Midland Avenue, we come next to the lands of Andries Tibout. On May 14, 1686, Governor Gawen Lawrie conveyed 261 acres upon the west side of the Hackensack River to Andries Tibout of Kindockameck. The boundary survey began at a marked black oak tree standing one chain (66 feet) from the river and ran northeast along the river front about two-tenths of a mile to the marked white oak and sassafras stake on the river bank, which identified the southeast boundary point of John Demarest’s land. Tibout’s lot extended 168 chains (11,088 feet, or 2.1 miles) northwest to one of the upper branches of Winocksack (Sprout) Brook. The western limits of this tract would be the Sprout Brook, where it flows between From Road and the Garden State Parkway, just north of Midland Avenue. The tract was originally “bounded south by a highway,” now Midland Avenue. River Dell High School is located along the northern boundary of this tract, as is

Mackay Avenue and Glenside Court.

Andries Tibout, a son of Jean Thybaut and Sarah Vander Vlucht, came from Bruges, Flanders. He first settled on the Delaware River, but then moved to Manhattan, Flatbush, Bergen, Harlem and Bushwick, before settling in the Hackensack Valley. After his death in late 1704, his property was sold to Abraham Ackerman, who in turn sold to Joost DeBaun. On October 26, 1728, his widow, Elizabeth Drabbe, subdivided the original Tibout tract into four equal parts and gave deeds for the same to her sons Carel (Karol) and Jacobus Debaun, to her son-in-law, David Demarest, husband of daughter Matie, and to Hillebrant Lozier, husband of granddaughter Christina, who was a daughter of her deceased son Christian Debaun.

Moving northward into Oradell, Gawen Lawrie conveyed 382 acres on the west side of the Hackensack River to John Demarest of Kendocamack (David Demarest Sr.’s eldest son) on August 9, 1686. The boundary survey began at a white oak tree, marked on four sides, standing two chains from the [Kinderkamack] path and ran northeast along the river for a little more than a quarter mile. From the river, the survey line turned northwest and ran about two miles. As defined by present landmarks, the boundary ran along Ridgewood Avenue in Oradell, westward to the tributary of Sprout Brook that flows at the western edge of the Bergen Pines Hospital property. This tract of land extended south to Mackay Avenue, River Dell High School and Glenside Court. A tract of 220 acres, purchased by planter Jacques Lerou, of Kindockameck, bounded it on the north.

John Demarest Sr. of New Barbadoes Neck granted 250 acres of this tract to his son John Demarest Jr. on March 23, 1697. Cornelius Claessen Kuyper (aka Cooper) and his wife Aletta Bogart acquired the same from John Demarest Sr. and John Demarest Jr. on October 31, 1716, in exchange for lands at Newcastle, Delaware.



1828 Survey (cropped here) by Garret Wandieu (?). Full copy on exhibit at the Campell-Christie House.

(A) In 1714, John Demarest bequeathed “all that farm on ye west side of Hackensack River opposite to ye old Mill, whereon I do live [as of March 1714] to his grandson David Demarest, the son and heir of his eldest son David....” His eldest son David D. Demarest inherited the farm, marrying Caterina Secor in July 1748. On July 3, 1766, David and Catherine Demarest sold “all that certain House or parcel of land lying and being by the Old Bridge,” containing 47 acres, to Joost Van Buskirk. The “certain House” mentioned in the deed is the earliest reference to the Heritage House on Kinderkamack Road in River Edge. Joost A. Zabriskie, yeoman, and his wife Rachel next owned this property, selling it on April 27, 1802, to Joost Demarest, of Hackensack Precinct, for \$2,500.

(B) Robert Vauquellen surveyed 16 acres on the west side of the river for David Demarest Sr. on July 30, 1681. This property was bounded east by “the mill and mill-dam and the river.” David Demarest built a house thereon almost immediately. According to a division of David Demarest Sr.’s lands in 1709, John Demarest received the larger 261-acre tract on the west side of the river, where he soon settled, probably in his father’s former dwelling. It stood at what is now the southeast corner of River Edge Avenue and Center Avenue in River Edge. The ancient house apparently underlay a later building, last known as the Wilford Sherwood House, which was torn down to make way for the present condominiums.

(C) A stone house on the landing at Old Bridge may have been built as early as 1740 by Johannis Lozier. Garret Hopper, Merchant, and his wife Peggy conveyed the storehouse and dock on the west side of the river at Old Bridge to John T. Banta, Grocer, of New York City, on April 28, 1805, for \$2,000. This house was described in 1816 as “a stone dwelling house, with two rooms with fireplaces, and an entry and bedroom on one floor, and cellar underneath, with a never-failing spring of water in the same, and a kitchen adjoining the dwelling house.—Likewise, an excellent roomy store-house, barn shed, stable, chair house and corn house.” On January 20, 1823, John T. Banta of New Barbadoes, Merchant, and his wife Cornelia sold the one-acre store lot at Old Bridge to Stephen Lozier, of New York City, Cartman, for \$1,500.

(D) The first house in which David Des Marest resided was located “on the East side of the Hackensack and doubtless very near to his mills at the Old Bridge.” David Demarest Sr. probably resided here between 1677 and his removal to the west side of the river in 1681. Upon David Demarest Sr.’s death in 1693, the Little Mill House and Farm on the east side of the river was devised to John Demarest. In 1714, John Demarest bequeathed the Little Mill Farm to daughters, Sarah, wife of Abraham Canon, and Rachel, wife of Thomas Hyer. Instead, he sold this same property to his nephew Jacobus Demarest, sometime before his death in October 1719, revising his will to leave legacies of £140 to his two daughters. A 1717 road return refers to a “Road down to the Bridge by John Demarest, his house....”

(E) A square foundation underlying the extant sandstone house is probably all that survives of the house of Jacobus Demarest, who acquired the Little Mill farm in 1719. It was likely a frame structure built atop this stone foundation. The date stone of the present gambrel house identifies its builder as John Demarest in 1765.

The property was then described as lying “between Jacques Loraux [that is, south of Ridgewood Avenue] and a Certain piece of Land belonging unto John de Marest,



Senior ... being the whole Length of ye Lott and one hundred & Sixty-five Chains, and the breadth in front and rear until it makes the Quantity of Acres as aforesaid, with ye point that goes between ye River, bounded Easterly on Hackensack River, Northerly by Jacques Laroux [Larou], Westerly by Paramus Land, Southerly by

John De Marest, Senior, his Land ... Except on ye Southeast corner of ye River unto as far [as] it can Save [that is to say, exclude] ye Mill; to a freedom [or right-of-way, now New Milford Avenue] unto the mill from ye River unto ye Road or highway being about three Acres of Land, which is Reserved for ye free Passage unto the Mill.” This locality (now part of Oradell), where the aforesaid mill stood, was later named New Milford and the works of the Hackensack Water Company were located at the southeast corner of this tract in 1881.

Captain Cornelius Cuyper was a boat captain who married Aelthe (Aletta), daughter of Thunise Gybertsen Bogart and Sarah Rappelle, farmers at Wallabout. Dirk (or Richard) Cooper, the couple’s fifth son, was born October 13, 1696. He settled his father’s farm on the west bank of the Hackensack River in New Barbadoes Township. Dirk Cooper married Tryntje (or Catherine), daughter of Arthur Van Pelt and Neltje Van Zuile of New Utrecht, Long Island, on March 3, 1722. Their children’s names were: Aletta, born January 20, 1723; Cornelius, born September 27, 1724; Arthur, born September 23, 1726; Richard, born December 21, 1728; John, born July 23, 1731; Peter, born October 6, 1733; Henry, born November 23, 1735 and Tunis, born February 11, 1739. Catherine Cooper died January 17, 1745, and her husband Richard died October 2, 1753. ❖

(Top) Crayon drawing (cropped here) by 12 yr old John K. Demarest, 1836, looking west, the house (aka Heritage House) is on the hill, right. On exhibit at the Campbell-Christie House.

(Middle) Photograph by Gustave Pfost, Home of A. Z. Bogert, Sigmund H. Uminski.

(Bottom) Photograph by Gustave Pfost, Home of Mayor Albert Z. Bogert, 795 Kinderkamack Road, Sigmund H. Uminski, *The History of River Edge 1693-1964*. (New York: Hauser Printing Company, 1965), 19.

The Landscape is Changing

By BCHS President James Smith

If you have been to Historic New Bridge Landing lately, you have noticed some of the continued changes to the historic grounds. While cabbage and parsnips continue to grow in the garden, the rest of the beds have been turned over, tulips have been planted and planning continues for next year. We’ve also tackled two invasive plant species on our property, Japanese Knotweed and Porcelain berry. With continued monitoring and their removal, eventually, native species that provide a benefit to native animals can begin to reclaim the land.

The Building & Grounds Committee has also strengthened the Society’s commitment to leave “a living legacy” to future generations by planting seven trees in the past year. Eventually these trees will provide shade for visitors at New Bridge but will also lend themselves to interpretation at the site. One such tree is the Princeton Elm. Two have been planted on the grounds in an effort to bring this once glorious tree back to Bergen County. The elm tree was truly a giant in the American landscape, growing to well over 100 ft. tall and forming a V-shaped crown. As Bergen County and other areas across the country began to develop, these naturally hardy trees lined new development roads providing shady canopies for parents to push strollers and children the opportunity to learn to ride their bikes under.

Unfortunately, a fungal disease, known as Dutch Elm Disease was accidentally introduced to America and Europe via Asia in the early 20th Century. With the native Elm lacking immunity to the disease, many trees succumbed to their fate. While some isolated stands do still exist today, the fugal disease is actually spread by elm bark beetle and the elm is not as widely planted as it once was. Today, the Princeton variety has proved to be resistant to the disease and we look forward to the tree providing plenty of shade to future generations of visitors at New Bridge Landing. ❖



Trustee Bob Cope pictured. Photo by: Manfred Wegner

You are reading BCHS’s award winning newsletter. In June, we received The League of Historical Societies of NJ Kevin M. Hale Award. Second Prize for the newsletter and First Prize for the HNBL site brochure in the pamphlet category.



Bergen County Historical Society
P.O. Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661
www.bergencountyhistory.org

Deborah Powell & Kevin Wright,
editors & layout

Items for the newsletter may be submitted to D. Powell, Attn: Newsletter
contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org



BCHS Collections

by BCHS Past-President Deborah Powell

In the spring newsletter I wrote about the Betsey Haring quilt that was worked on by conservators from the Textile Conservation Workshop in Salem, NY. When retrieving the quilt we brought along a needlework by Elsie A. Cole Van Houten to be cleaned. I learned later in the summer that Morven Museum in Princeton was looking for examples of Jersey Girls' needlework before 1860 for an exhibit for the fall of 2014, they reached out to us to borrow an example from our collections.

The curators are interested in another needlework because of the vividness of the colors and it has the original elglomise frame. The religious-themed needlework c.1857 needs restoration before it can be exhibited, the quote came in for \$1,470. **Would you be interested in sponsoring its restoration?** As noted on the MET website on samplers these needleworks are often the only evidence from otherwise unrecorded lives. Jane Lozier Demarest worked *Abraham's Sacrifice* when she was only 12 years old. Recently intern Kim Weglarz and I transcribed all the BCHS samplers. Note: These items were not affected by Sandy.



Collection Management

BCHS has another first in the state? This past spring with an iPad purchase in mind, I began searching for an app to create a new inventory of the BCHS collections. I wanted to be able to meld past inventories into info that we now know.

I couldn't find an app designed specifically for museum collections. After looking around quite a bit on iTunes, I found *Itemizer* by Digital2Analog (\$99!). This

software does everything we need: I can create searchable, sortable categories and fields, import photos and pdfs and keep notes in a description page. Each artifact is listed in a category in its own "folder," represented by an image thumbnail. The app allows one to export the inventory in a CSV format (to bring into other software if ever needed), create a pdf of the inventory, and back up the entire inventory to Drop Box. It has developed into a great research aid, I can work on the collection 24/7! We have thousands of artifacts in the collections, it's a work in progress.

Deborah Powell,
Museum Collections Chairwoman,
contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org.



The summer saw many successful events from the Vintage Base Ball Game, which was the first large scale event in the Meadow. This was a beautiful site, to see an area that was once a junkyard filled with people and players playing America's pastime, using 1863 rules. August saw our first ever Wine Festival that brought together a diverse crowd of wine lovers and historians for an important cause, building the museum and raising over \$15,000 in the process. The membership in the Society has grown to over 1200 members; we've branched out into new ways of communicating to you, from email blasts to our Facebook page containing updates not only on Society events, but Bergen County history. We've also continued efforts to tend to the grounds and enhance the visitor experience at Historic New Bridge Landing.

Presidents message, continued from page 1

As President, it should be noted and a point I want to make clear, this is not "my Historical Society," it is all of ours. Everything that we have been able to accomplish so far has not been due to the work of one person, but rather through the tireless efforts of our members who volunteer to make every event and project first class. We continue to make steady progress in building a museum fitting for our site and we will be the generation that builds it at Historic New Bridge Landing. So often we read about history, we must be the generation that makes history. I look forward to serving as your President and welcome your support as we continue with the Bergen County Historical Society's mission of preserving and promoting Bergen County's rich and diverse history.

James Smith, BCHS President ❖

NYRAC helped save BCHS collections at a 2-Day Workshop Oct. 12 & 13

Many thanks to NYRAC volunteers Jacqueline DeLuca, Brittany Venturella, Keira Gruber, Danielle Pace, Moses Mkumpha, Julia Sybalsky, Esther Rydak, Karen Zipf, Jessica Pace, Shannon Mulshine, Stephanie Liff. Gary McGowan, Cultural Preservation & Restoration and President of NYRAC and Harriet Irgang Alden, of Rustin Levenson Art Conservation & VP of NYRAC, organized the volunteers, including BCHS intern Kim Weglarz. **The crazy thing about damage from Sandy was these were collections stored off-site, not at New Bridge!** We had to prioritize the insurance money, these items were not covered.

New BCHS member Linda Wass was joined by BCHS trustees Lucille Bertram, Kate Reilly, Bob Cope, Manfred Wegner, Past-President Kevin Wright and President Jim Smith and Mary Donohue, HNBLCPC to help facilitate. BCHS spent over \$500 in conservation materials to properly pack up the cleaned artifacts.

Most of the objects worked on were metal though Harriet Irgang Alden worked to stabilize a very large painting "Sunrise over the Hackensack" by River Edge artist & resident Emile Stange, c. 1895 and Gary McGowan cleaned an 1835 hair/pigskin trunk.

We continue to fundraise to get our collections in a safe museum building.

NYRAC (New York Regional Association for Conservation) ❖



Jacqueline DeLuca, NYRAC and Kim Weglarz, BCHS member, restoring Sandy damaged artifacts. Photos by D. Powell

**EVENT LISTING • No yellow postcard will be mailed for
December 2013 & January 2014**



Sinter Klaas Day at Historic New Bridge, Sunday, Dec 8, 2013, 1:00 - 4:00 pm

Enjoy Jersey Dutch holiday treats, refreshments and a visit with Sinter Klaas in the restored tavern in Campbell-Christie House, 1201 Main Street, River Edge, NJ 07661 from 1 to 4:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 8, 2013. See open-hearth cooking in authentic Jersey Dutch Out Kitchen and tour historic homes. For that special holiday gift, browse unique historical gift shop. At 1:30 P.M., historian, author and BCHS Past President Kevin Wright will give a history of Santa Claus. Tickets for the 30th Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts will also be on sale. **Experience History in one of the storied places where it was made!** For further info on membership in the Bergen County Historical Society, a non-profit volunteer association, or our museum drive to build a Bergen County Hall of History, visit: <http://www.bergencountyhistory.org> or call 201-343-9492.

30th Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts with Tavern Fare, Dec 21 & 22, 2013

Featuring Linda Russell & Companie, in the Steuben House, by reservation. TWO CONCERTS each night: Saturday, Dec 21: 7:00 & 8:30 pm and Sunday, Dec 22: 6:00 & 7:30 pm. Gift shop, Out-Kitchen & Demarest House Open. **TAVERN FARE:** Come before or after your concert for light tavern fare, including soup & herb biscuit, ploughman plate, fruit pie, hot mulled cider and more. Choose from our traditional menu.

Enjoy the holidays with friends and family in the setting of an authentic 18th-century Jersey Dutch tavern. Seating limited. See open-hearth cooking in the Dutch Out Kitchen, browse the Gift Shop and tour the Demarest House. Saturday, Tavern Open: 6-9 pm and Sunday, Tavern Open: 5-8 pm. Concerts in the Steuben House are a separate admission, by reservation only. Many folks make this part of their annual holiday celebrations. Concert: \$30 per person (BCHS members \$25). **PayPal on website or purchase at above event.** Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main St, River Edge, NJ 07661.



Many folks make this part of their annual holiday celebrations. Concert: \$30 per person (BCHS members \$25). **PayPal on website or purchase at above event.** Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main St, River Edge, NJ 07661.

The Society's Twelfth Night Party, Sunday, January 5, 2014 - 2:00-5:00 pm

Finish your holiday season on a high note by joining the Bergen County Historical Society's celebration of Twelfth Night at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, NJ 07661 from 2 to 5 pm on Sunday, January 5, 2014. Members and guests are invited to bring an old family recipe, favorite food, dessert or drink to share in an afternoon of good fellowship and New Year cheer.

School of Interpretation: December 18 & January 15, 7:30 pm

For anyone interested in the public presentation of Historic New Bridge Landing, either as an exhibit docent, greeter, or living-history interpreter in period dress, the Bergen County Historical Society will sponsor a School of Historical Interpretation to hone communication skills and provide insight into the material culture of the past. With over 30 years of experience, historian Kevin Wright addresses the Basics of Historical Interpretation. Email if interested in participating: contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org. Takes place in the Steuben House., 1209 Main Street, River Edge, NJ.