

In Bergen's Attic



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members, supporters,

President's Message

and volunteers, who provide their precious time and financial support to make all our programming possible. Without all of you, the Society would not be able to carry on the quality programs and events that we bring to the public on a monthly basis. We have been able to temporarily move some artifacts back into the Steuben house, displayed in cases that are above the century flood levels.

Some of these incredible items have not been on public display for more than a quarter of a century. If you have

not had a chance to see them, I encourage you all to come out for the next event and see these windows into Bergen's past. I would also like to take this opportunity to ask all of you for your help in an important matter. The Society is in great need of a museum building to house, display, and store our extensive artifact collection, in these tough economic times we need your support more than ever. We have plans to build a safe environment at New Bridge for this collection, and need the financial support of our membership to help make this

happen. This collection is all of ours, it is an important link to the past and an important reminder of the life ways of those who passed before us. Please contribute to the New Bridge Conservancy Fund to support the building of our museum. Please encourage your friends and family who are not members to join, and come out and enjoy all our programs and events, and as always, we are forever grateful for your support and membership to this great organization.



The Ancient Black Walnut Tree behind the Steuben House. It has been determined the 200+ yr. hollow tree has to come down. Many people have memories of happy afternoons under the shade of this great old tree. Wedding parties have long assembled for photos here.

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Mike Trepicchio, BCBS President

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EXCITING NEWS.

BCHS has partnered with Macy's in the *Shop for a Cause* Program. This is a chance to support BCBS and earn some savings for fall (and early Holiday ?) shopping.

We are selling a \$5 Shopping Pass for Saturday 16 October 2010. The pass is good for exclusive savings in any store and at Macy's.com site*. It costs \$5.00 and we keep 100% of the proceeds.

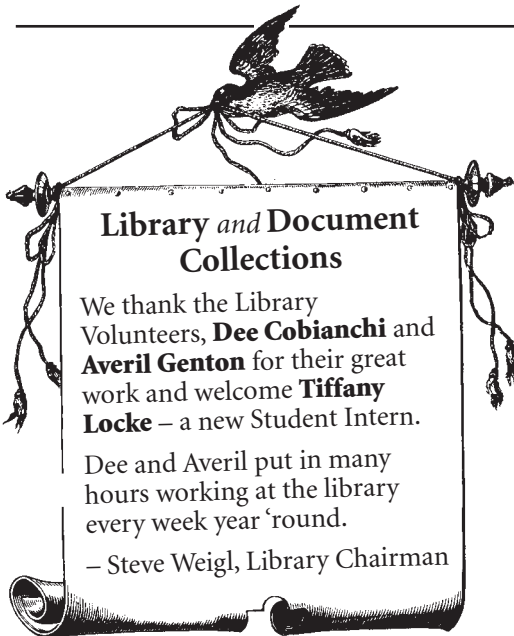
What is the savings offer? Shop for a Cause tickets have two offers: Shoppers are entitled to exclusive 20% or 10%* savings in most departments all day long plus an additional 25%* off a single purchase. Shop for a Cause is special because you can save on most items throughout the store and online. There will also be a drawing for a \$500 Shopping Pass.

How do I buy the Pass?

- You can buy a pass in person at the BCBS Lecture in Hackensack on 23 Sept, at the Steuben Day event at New Bridge on 26 Sept. or 10 Oct. French Cemetery Tour
- You can mail \$5 to the Society (PO Box 55, River Edge NJ 07661 (Please allow time for us to mail you the Shopping Pass).

If you have any questions, please call Bill Farrelly at 551-795-6717.

(*Exclusions and restrictions apply. See Savings Pass for details.)



LIBRARY TIDBIT:

On March 22, 1790, the Bergen County Court of Common Pleas approved the petition from Rodman Fields of Three Pigeons in Bergen Woods for a Public House or Tavern License. The other Surety's were Rich Earl, John Earl, and George Van Giesen.

SOURCE: BCBS - Mss. 368A-78.

We will be moving our rare book and document collection from Felician College. Check our website for the latest scheduling changes.

Don't forget to check out our website message board. Bob Leafe posts interesting Bergen County ebay items. Many queries come to us from around the world – help us answer them!

www.bergencountyhistory.org

The Historic New Bridge Flag

by *Historic New Bridge Landing Vice Chairwoman Mary Donohue*

Among the many interesting and thoughtful programs that the BCHS has provided for the interest and enjoyment of history lovers, is the Naturalization Ceremony, celebrated for the first time last year at the Steuben House in collaboration with the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission. At that ceremony, 32 new Americans from 22 nations took the oath of allegiance to the United States. All who were present on that occasion were moved and inspired by the solemnity, beauty and joy of the ceremony.

This year, on September 16th, the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services will again conduct this patriotic ceremony at our treasured historic site. To add to the significance of the occasion, the new citizens will pledge their allegiance to the United States in the presence of the Historic New Bridge Flag, which will also make its first public appearance on that day.

This special flag is the handiwork of Marge Haggerty and Helen Clark, residents of River Edge, Master Quilters, who have undertaken to reproduce two Francis Hopkinson flags who was the designer of the first official flag of the United States, commissioned by Congress on June 14, 1777, hence the origin of Flag Day was first proclaimed by President Harry Truman on August 3, 1949. Journals of the



Marge Haggerty and Helen Clark

Continental Congress clearly attest that Francis Hopkinson, a representative from New Jersey, designed the flag of thirteen stripes, seven red and six white, with a field of blue in the upper left hand corner featuring a constellation of thirteen stars representing the number of the original states, set in a quincuncial pattern resulting in a strong diagonal effect. Congressman Hopkinson also designed the Great Seal of the United States.

Marge Haggerty has skillfully supervised the reproduction of these two handmade flags and donated the handiwork to the New Bridge Landing Park. We have christened it “The New Bridge Flag.” With the cooperation of Congressmen Garrett and Rothman, successors of Francis Hopkinson as representatives from New Jersey to the House of Representatives, they have agreed to act as guardians and custodians of these special flags which will be flown over every Revolutionary War Battle Site and over the White House and the Capitol of the United States. One of the New Bridge Flags will remain in a place of honor at Historic New Bridge Landing’s future museum, and the other will be raffled to the public to raise funding for the proposed Bergen County Historical Society Museum at New Bridge Landing.

After the September 16, 2010 Naturalization Ceremony, The New Bridge Flag will remain on display at the Steuben House. We will soon begin planning the journey of our special flags and will keep you apprised of their interesting visits. We will also keep you informed regarding the details of the raffle.

The HNBLPC and the BCHS join in thanking Marge Haggerty and Helen Clark for their important role in creating “The New Bridge Flag.” ❖



Historic Houses Endangered

by Vice President Peggy Norris



Not every old house can be saved, but each one lost is a loss of a piece of history—of a family or of a community or of architectural style, or maybe all three. Two houses near the Saddle River in Ridgewood and Paramus are threatened by development. Their stories and situations are different, but they highlight the complex situations in which Bergen County's historic houses find themselves and the rich history they represent.

The Zabriskie Tenant House (Island Lot Cottage), 273 Dunkerhook Road, Paramus, NJ.

Dunkerhook Road is located in today's Paramus off of Paramus Road across from the Paramus Golf and



Country Club and bordered on the north and west by the Dunkerhook Area of the Saddle River County Park. The area was called Dunker Hook (or dark corner) as early as 1767, when the name appears in a county road survey. The Zabriskies owned much of the land up and down Paramus Road. In 1809 the Zabriskie land at Dunkerhook was referred to in deeds as the "Island Lot"—being surrounded by the Saddle River, the Spring Brook, and wetlands. The houses here were occupied by Zabriskie

family members in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Later these houses were occupied by descendants of the Zabriskie family's slaves—the Bennett and Stewart families. The house at 273 Dunkerhook Road is on the National Register of Historic Places and is under consideration by the Paramus Planning Board for demolition so that a developer with an option to buy the property can subdivide the property and build two new houses. Fortunately it is also on the Paramus' historic landmark list which requires a six month delay of action, during which time it is hoped a better solution can be crafted.

The sandstone part of the house was built for Christian A. Zabriskie by his father Andrew ca. 1786. Christian, who died in 1813, was a merchant and may have operated a store from the house. He was also a freeholder from 1790-1793. In 1793 area residents made an application to designate the Dunkerhook Road a public road, from the "bridge [across the Saddle River] near the house of John Vanderbeak in the precinct of Saddle River and from thence to Run Easterly" over the lands of Jacob and Andrew Zabriskie (and others) to the Post road (now Paramus Road), thus connecting what is now Fair Lawn Avenue with Paramus Road and providing a route to Paterson. The Vanderbeek house still stands in Fair Lawn, west of the Saddle River. This house and the Naugle house are on a large lot of property that is currently for sale and thus are also endangered by development. When Andrew C. Zabriskie died in January 1819 the property was inherited by Cornelius C. Zabriskie (son of Christian A.) who occupied the family house on the

east side of Paramus Road where the Paramus Golf and Country Club is now located. It was at that time that African American tenants moved into the Dunkerhook houses. The Dunkerhook community was an important African American community and believed to be unusual in the Bergen County area. (Skunk Hollow in Alpine was another such community.) Beginning in the 1830s there are references to African Americans at Dunkerhook and by the 1850 census the Bennet, Steward, and Sisco families lived there. Descendants of these families are active in the effort to save the house today.

By 1860 there were 6 households with 43 residents living at Dunkerhook. Mid-nineteenth century maps show 4 or 5 houses on Dunkerhook Road east of the Saddle River, mostly on the Zabriskie property north of the road. The 1913 Bromley Atlas clearly shows four properties and perhaps 6 dwellings and the church.

Dunkerhook A.M.E. Zion Church was established by 1867, when it appears on a map. The church struggled financially and had frequent changes of pastors, and in 1876 there was competition from the new Zion church in Ridgewood, but it persisted well into the 20th century. In 1882 Glen Rock diarist Anthony Thurston reported going to a “bush meeting” at Dunkerhook with 2 friends. The Church was still active in 1904 when Catherine Wessels deeded the land to the Church as long as it was used for that purpose. The Church sold the land in 1923. The Church probably had a Sunday School, but there is no evidence for there being any other kind of school at Dunkerhook. The Church burned in the 1930’s.

Newspaper articles give some insight into the Bennett family, residents of Dunkerhook. In 1891 6-year old Frank Bennett fell into the river and drowned while fishing off

the Dunkerhook bridge. His mother, Catherine Bennett, died February 18, 1911. The Paterson Morning Call noted that “[N]o one, high, low, rich or poor, was better known or more highly respected and loved than Catherine Bennett.” She was a midwife who assisted at least 650 births for both black and white families and mentored young mothers throughout the area. She read widely and was knowledgeable of not only medicine, but of agriculture, horticulture, and politics. She was a founding member of the Dunkerhook Church and a leader in that congregation. She was survived by 8 children, 26 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. Her husband was Benjamin Bennett, a coachman for the Wessels-Pell family who died in 1906.

There was a close relationship between the Dunkerhook residents and the Zabriskie family and their descendants, the Wessels and Pell families. Catherine Bennett is listed as a “pensioner” of Mrs. John H. Pell and another resident, Rose R. Bennett (who married a Sisco) was a servant of “a wealthy woman named Wessels” from whom she received a legacy of over \$2000. Benjamin Bennett, a life-long servant of the Wessels-Pell family, was granted use of the Dunkerhook house and land by Mrs. Wessel Wessels when she died.

For information about the house and the efforts to save it, check the Society’s message board at <http://bergencountyhistory.org/forums/index.php/topic,1732.0.html>

Based on research by Kevin Wright, Allen Lutins, Michele Wilson, and Joe Suplicki.

Next issue of *In Bergen’s Attic*, we’ll report on the Zabriskie-Schedler property now owned by the Village of Ridgewood. It has a ca. 1830 house on the property and sits on ground that was the site of Revolutionary War action. ❖

Three Guides

by Past President Todd W. Braisted



“The following Corps are to strike their tents, load their Waggon and be in Readiness to march, with their Blankets and Provisions, this Night at 9 o’Clock: Two Companies Chasseurs, 1st and 2^d Light Infantry, 1st and 2^d Grenadiers, 2 Battalions of Guards, 33^d Regiment, and 42^d Regiment, 3 Battalions of Hessian Grenadiers, 100 Men of Rogers’s, without Arms; two Engineers, with twelve Carpenters *and three Guides*. They will receive their Orders from Lieut. Gen. Earl Cornwallis.”¹ With these orders, issued on November 19th, 1776, the British invasion of Bergen County was set in motion.

Most of the facts surrounding the British scaling the Palisades and the precipitate flight of the Continental Army from Fort Lee are well known, but certain questions have either not been researched or properly answered. This short piece will address one of those questions, namely: who were the three guides who led Cornwallis’ troops on their invasion of New Jersey?

The use of guides in a country unknown to an invading army, especially when accurate maps are unavailable, is of utmost consequence to the success of the mission. Starting with the very first action at Lexington and Concord in 1775, the British Army never stirred without Loyalists by their side, showing them the way.

During the remaining years of the war, certain Loyalists became prominent in the role, amongst them Cornelius Hatfield, Jr. of Elizabethtown and Weart Banta of Hackensack. But at this early stage, all the players were new to the British. The one who joined early and proved of great service not only at that critical time but throughout the war was Bergen County’s would-be brewmaster, John Aldington.

Aldington was not native to America, having been born in England.² Emigrating to America in 1768, he settled in Bergen County, where, in his own words, he was “the Owner of a House and Farm and was in the possession thereof situate in the English Neighbourhood in Jersey containing about Twenty acres of rich Grazing Land and worth about Seven Pound P Acre, Together with a new Brewery not quite finished which the Rebels converted into a Store house, and which cost your Memorialist with other Improvements Ninety pounds Sterling.” He joined the British by October, 1776 and was immediately put to good use by the British, giving “the only Intelligence to the *Renown* and two Frigates in the North River, of the Fire Vessells that were fitted out to be sent down upon them so that the Men of War were prepared for their Reception before they came down, and your Memorialist was at his own desire in the *Tryal* Tender a Head of the Man of War to receive them.”³

This Bergen County Englishman’s residence made him an ideal choice as someone to guide the troops to Fort Lee, “the Land itself being every foot of it exceeding rich and fertile, with the orchard He had planted and Dwelling House, must be worth and would have sold for £ 20 Currency an Acre exclusive of the Brewery; that the Brewery from its situation being the only establishment of that kind thereabouts; from its proximity to Hackinsack and having a Water carriage to New-York and in the center of a rich Populous part of the Country, must have turned out to very great advantage.”⁴ His previous statement of his brewery being converted into a storehouse indicates its close proximity to Fort Lee, the only time of the war any such structures would have been in English Neighborhood.

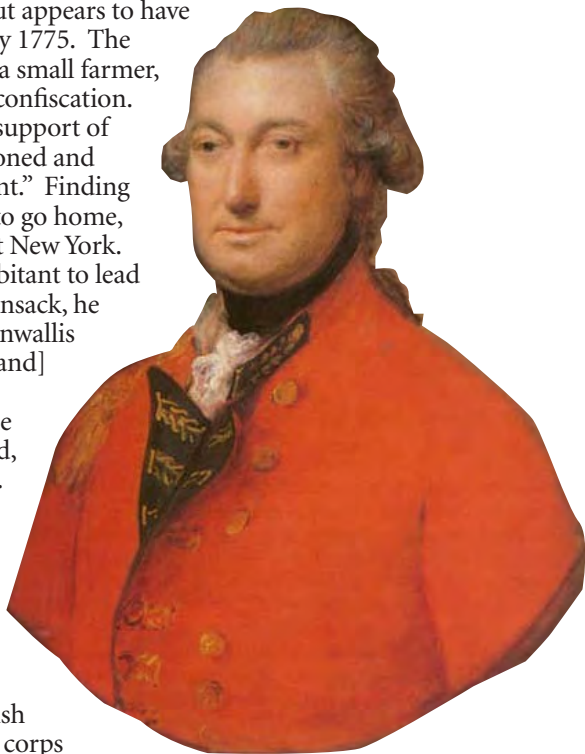
Aldington’s use as a guide is attested to by none other than Cornwallis himself, who stated in 1784: “I hereby certify that Major John Aldington was a zealous Loyalist

& that He guided the troops under my command, when I landed in the Province of New Jersey, in the year 1776.”⁵

His services during the invasion would not go unnoticed by the British. By May 1777, Aldington was commissioned captain in the corps of Guides & Pioneers. Detachments of this corps would serve throughout the New York area, as well as on many of the expeditions sent to the South. Aldington’s career included participation at the Battles of Brandywine, Monmouth, the relief of Rhode Island, the Bergen County Grand Forage, and the Siege of Charleston, South Carolina, ending the war as a major in command of his corps. His property in English Neighborhood, as well as that obtained in New York City through marriage was confiscated during and after the war, in consequence of his loyalty to the British. Aldington left New York City prior to the evacuation, sailing to England in attempt to recover some of his lost wealth through the act of parliament passed to compensate Loyalists for their losses and services. He would eventually take up permanent residence there, enjoying half pay as major for the remainder of his life.

The second person to lead Cornwallis and his troops that famous November day was a resident of Hackensack, Isaac Perkins. Perkins was born in North Castle, Westchester County, New York, but appears to have settled on the Hackensack River by 1775. The river helped him make a living as a small farmer, losing a pettiauger and bateau to confiscation. For not signing an association in support of congress, this Loyalist was imprisoned and “Committed to Close Confinement.” Finding means to break jail, he chose not to go home, but found his way to the British at New York. Realizing the value of a local inhabitant to lead the way to New Bridge and Hackensack, he was at their head “when Lord Cornwallis marched across the North River [and] was his Guide at fort Lee.”⁶

Perkins did not have nearly the prestigious career as Aldington did, but it was probably more exciting. Meeting up with his former neighbors across the Hudson, he signed on under Colonel James DeLancey in his corps of Westchester County Militia & Refugees. Serving without pay, uniforms or any of the other emoluments given to regular British or Provincial soldiers, DeLancey’s corps



was more active than any other corps in the New York garrison. Between October, 1779 and May, 1782 Perkins and the Refugees took 464 officers and men prisoners, both Continentals and militia. The former guide was amongst those Loyalists who evacuated New York in what was known as “The Spring Fleet” of April 1783, arriving at the mouth of the Saint John River on 13 May 1783. Perkins remained in the new Province of New Brunswick, settling on the Kennebecasis River.⁷

The final member of Cornwallis’ trio is a bit of a mystery as to his value in this

continued on page 8

particular role. Joseph Hawkins was the son of a tenant of the same name who lived on the estate of William Bayard at Weehawken.⁸ Apparently a young man, and active, he may have had a knowledge of the river, the Palisades and its passes, but that is simply conjecture. His only service prior to the invasion was being sent out by Andreas Emmerick, then captain of the Guides & Pioneers, to distribute “manifestos” from Sir William Howe into the countryside. Upon a recollection of his services, he merely noted that event in November as “guide to Lord Cornwallis at the taking of Fort Lee.”

Hawkins continued to act as a guide and pilot to the army and navy, serving the troops in 1777 at Perth Amboy and later that year on the expedition up the Hudson to take Forts Clinton and Montgomery. His most famous incident took place in early February, 1778 when he with Weart Banta and two other Loyalists ambushed and took prisoner Abraham Brower, a Bergen County Militiaman who along with another had killed a Bergen County Loyalist, John Richards. The capture of Brower by Hawkins and the others was celebrated in New York, as shown by this newspaper account:

Brower the Person who last Week murdered Mr. John Richards, of New-Barbadoes Neck, has, from the admirable Measures concerted for that Purpose, been secured, and was on Thursday Afternoon lodged in the Custody of the Provost Guard.

Upon examining into the Means used by the four intrepid and loyal Persons, who voluntarily undertook to apprehend the aforesaid Brower, and brought him to Town, it was found they had endured inexpressible Anxiety and Fatigue; to reward such brave and fortunate Exertions, a Subscription is opened at Mr. Rivington’s and Mr. Gaine’s for collecting the Contributions of those who have a generous Sensibility of their spirited Enterprize.⁹

Like Perkins and Aldington, Hawkins’ property (he owned a small brick house with some property in New York City) was confiscated and sold after the war. He joined his brother guides in exile, attempting to recover his losses, estimated at nearly £ 600. Sterling.

History does not always give up her secrets. We are fortunate, in this particular case, that the three individuals tasked for one particular adventure in war, survived that endeavor and almost seven more years of war so they could record the service. All the documents identifying these individuals were written at the end of the war, or shortly thereafter, and have survived to this day.

The next secret of that day to be revealed will be identifying the person who alerted the garrison at Fort Lee. Stay tuned! ❖

(Endnotes)

- 1 General Orders, Head Quarters, DeLancey’s Mill, 19 Nov. 1776. The Orderly Book of Lt. Col. Stephen Kemble, 1775-1778. Collections of the New-York Historical Society for 1883, printed for the Society (1884.) Page 411.
- 2 “List of Officers of His Majesty’s Provincial Forces...25 November 1783. Colonial Office, Class 5, Volume 111, folios 463-468, The National Archives of the United Kingdom. Hereafter cited as TNA.
- 3 Memorial of John Aldington to the Commissioners for American Claims, no date. Audit Office, Class 13, Volume 108, folio 1, TNA.
- 4 Aldington to the Commissioners for American Claims, 24 November 1785. Audit Office 13/108/2, TNA.
- 5 Certificate of Lord Cornwallis, 24 January 1784. Audit Office 13/108/2, TNA.
- 6 Memorial of Isaac Perkins to the Commissioners for American Claims, Burton, New Brunswick, 11 March 1786. Audit Office 13/19/44, TNA.
- 7 Perkins to the Commissioners for American Claims, 4 February 1787. Audit Office 13/19/45, TNA.
- 8 Certificate of William Bayard, 17 November 1783. Audit Office 13/96/431, TNA.
- 9 The New-York Gazette, and the Weekly Mercury, February 9, 1778. The other militiaman involved in the killing, John Lozier, was captured the following month by a party of New York Volunteers stationed at Paulus Hook. The two were kept closely confined in the provost for nearly a year, until exchanged in 1779.

Jersey Dutch Memorandum Book of A. Zabriskie

Jersey Dutch Memorandum Book of A. Zabriskie, From the Collections of the Bergen County Historical Society

Translated by Charles Gehring, New Netherland Project, March 2, 1988, for Frederick Bogert.

This is my little book, Regarding all wonders, And events remembered.

A [Zabor]owski

- [1] In the year 1757, April the 20th day, Paulus Livesey began to teach school here at Perremis. The 2nd Tuesday in March is the election day for selecting Townsmen in each precinct.
1767, the 25th of July, I bought the stallion of Andris J. Zabriski for £21 10\$ down; he was 3 years old.
- [2] Blank
- [3] The English numbers written out. [Remainder in English].
- [4] In the year 1752 the old style was done away with and the new style begun. [Reference to the adoption of the Gregorian calendar reform by the English; something the Dutch had done almost 100 years earlier.]
- [5] This relates that in the year 1753 a hail storm struck the grain in some places with disastrous effect just as the rye kernels were developing.
The last war between the English and the French began in the year 1754, and in the year 1755 some of our heathens [Indians] rose up against us and did much damage to the west of us.
- [6] In the year 1754, the 16th of August, we had such high water that it carried away various mills and [kreeters?]. In the year 1755 during the night between the 30th and 31st of May we had a heavy frost that did much damage to our grain and other produce. In the year 1755, the 18th of November we had an earthquake. {This was a major earthquake whose epicenter was near Boston. It was also felt strongly in Albany, according to a Bible record.}
May 31st in the year 1756 we had a frost that again did much damage to some places.
- [7] In the year 1756, August 14th, Fort Oswego was captured from the French.
August 9th, 1757, Fort William Henry was captured from the French.
This is the beginning of our victory. July 26th, 1758, [the fortress of] Louisbourg [in Nova Scotia] was captured by the English.
July 24th, 1759, Fort Niagara was captured by Sir William Johnson. And on the same date as above General Amherst reduced Ticonderoga and Crown Point.
- [8] September 13, 1759, Quebec surrendered to general Tousand.
September 8th, 1760, Montreal surrendered to General Amherst.
February 16th, 1762, Martineco [Martinique in the Caribbean] surrendered to General Monckton.
November 3rd, 1762, the articles of peace were signed between England and France and Spain.
June 18th, 1765, we had a severe hail storm that did much damage to our grain and other produce.
- [9] February 21st, 1773, we had such severe, cold weather for about four days that the earth burst open in many places; something I have never seen before in my memory. A. Zabriskie
1777, April 5th, I bought a gallon of rum for £2
1777, August 17th, I bought a half-bushel of salt for £4
1777, August 20th, I bought a quart of Jenever [genevre, from the Latin, juniperus, referring to gin, which was flavored with juniper berries] for 16\$
1777, December 16th, I bought a bushel of salt for £14
1778, April 27th, I bought a bushel of salt for £10
1778, September 18th, I bought a pound of pepper for £1..12\$
1778, November 7th, I bought a half bushel of salt for £7..4\$. I bought another quart of rum for £11 12\$.
1778, November 18th, I bought a half-bushel of salt for £5
1779, January 7th, [I bought] a half gallon of rum for £3..4\$
1779, April 13th, [I bought] a gallon of rum for £8..16\$
- [10] 1779, May 10th, a gallon of rum £11..4\$
1779, May 10th, a skein of mohair £1..4\$
1779, August 4th, a half bushel of salt £10..16\$
1780, March 23rd, the regulars were here at Paremis.
1780, April 16th, the regulars were at Goggakis [Ho-Ho=Kus].
- [11] 1783, August 11th, Ben has come to live here with me for food and clothing.
- [12] Table of interest for 6 percent, from 5 shillings to 100 pounds, in the year 1759. ❖



Visionaries and The Bergen County Historical Society Collections

by Past President Deborah Powell



Featured Donations

Our collections were begun in 1903 and are almost entirely comprised of donations. The donations that have come to us



are wonderful examples of individuals who take the initiative to place artifacts in safekeeping for present and future generations to be enjoyed by many.

Ruth Westervelt Bower of Tenafly donated a Blue-on-Blue Wool “Bogert” coverlet and *Courthouse Steps* quilt. Ruth is pictured here with her two sons and daughter-in-law on the Steuben House porch. We have a comprehensive coverlet collection but no Blue-on-Blue or “Bogert,” so this is most appreciated.

Deidre Burridge Dagner, Louisa, VA lived on New Bridge Road some time ago. So when she spotted a photo album of a family who lived on Euclid Avenue, Hackensack, at an antique shop, she purchased it for “not much money”. Deidre sought us out over the internet to find a good home. She even paid for shipping! The album covers the turn of the century through World War I. Deidre

Ruth Westervelt Bower, and two sons Chris and Richard and daughter-in-law Mary Bower

has worked Rev War



Wreck at Anderson Street, Hackensack, April 17, 1915

pension files and four volumes of a 23 volume set called *Revolutionary War Period Bible, Family & Marriage Records*.

Ed, Neil, Tom and Lois Newman donated many items from Gus and Jeanne Newman’s estate. We got pretty far through inventorying but stopped during



on the BCHS laptop. For past several years I've been anxious to get a digital record of the collection without making much headway. **John Heffernan** had been able to get it started but Gabby really made good progress and I plan to keep at it.

the summer months. Their family has lived in the Bergen County for several generations and the artifacts reflect that. More to follow later.

Michelle Szadkowski Burkett found a 1757 medal commemorating Frederick the Great victories during the Seven Years War. Todd Braisted notes Frederick was very popular here because of his support of the American Cause. Steuben served under Frederick the Great from 1746 to 1763. Michelle lived in New Milford and found the 1 5/8" diameter disk buried near the Bloomer-Hart house, across from the northern River Edge train station. She considers the area her "home town" and donated the object to BCHS.

Collection Management

Peggy Norris, BCHS Vice President and I had the pleasure of working with **Gabby Passaro**, a Northeastern



Gabby Passaro

University student. This summer BCHS engaged Gabby, for a small stipend, to enter collections data and photographs into the museum cataloging software *PastPerfect*

Exhibit

We now have quite a few items from Early Bergen County on exhibit at the Steuben House. Featuring the **New Bridge Musket**: The full-cocked musket was pulled from the river by a boy fishing from the bridge in front of the Steuben House in 1903. It has been identified by **Don Troiani**, military collector and artist, as a French musket, probably a Charleyville. Charleyvilles were supplied in large numbers for the American Cause. One can only wonder about the circumstances when it was lost in the Hackensack at New Bridge.



Future Exhibit

We are working with local scouts on an Eagle Scout. The proposed project is to create an outdoor time line exhibit for a 54 inch wide – 175 yr. old (?) tree slice we have in the collections. More information to follow.

Saga

We heard from **FEMA** the "check is in the mail" in early July to wrap up the work done on the 2007 nor'easter! ❖

A Century Ago

by Past President Kevin Wright



According to statistics of the Thirteenth Census, compiled by Census Director E. Dana Durand, Bergen County's population climbed from 47,226 in 1890 to 78,441 in 1900 and then increased 176% to 138,002 in 1910. Of its civic subdivisions, Bogota made the largest percentage increase, rising from 337 in 1900 to 1,125 in 1910. Yet much of the county remained rural, a place where huckleberries ripened in early July and housewives still canned their garden bounty. Residents continued to flock to the river for fish and recreation. The Court Street Bridge remained a favorite spot for crabbers, while hook-and-line fishermen gathered along the well-shaded riverbank north of the River Edge Bridge.

Drought, however, parched the land and threatened crops in the summer of 1910. Newspapers called attention to the popular superstition that, if rain should fall on St. Swithin's Day (July 15), there would be more or less rain for the next 40 days. A heavy rainfall on Sunday morning, July 17th, broke the long dry spell and farmers were seen carting large loads of corn through town to city markets. The heaviest rainfall since June came on August 10th to the great relief of the parched vegetation. Among the agricultural wonders of the season was a tall cornstalk,

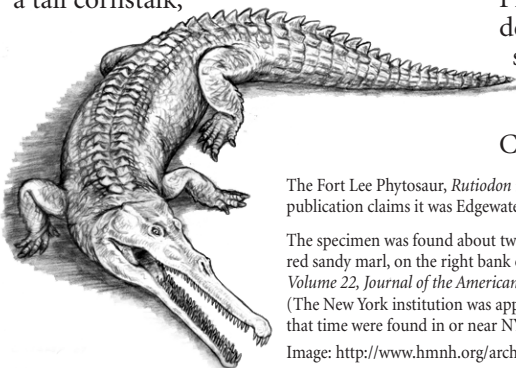
bearing two mammoth ears of corn, grown on Cornelius DeYoung's farm on Ridgewood Road, which was exhibited at Bogert Brothers' coal office in River Edge. He raised an acre of this variety, producing well-formed ears nearly a foot long. Frost was evident in the lowlands on the morning of September 23, 1910, as farmers cut their corn, stacking the stalks on the field. Rain on November 3rd finally restored the Woodcliff Reservoir to something looking like a lake. The price of cider apples rose, while the price of cider went down. Chestnuts, long gathered around Bergen County, became unusually scarce in 1910, likely attributable to the spreading blight that afflicted this monarch of the forest. The southward flight of wild ducks was still read as a sure sign of approaching cold weather. Riverside Camp, situated between River Edge and North Hackensack, closed for the season. Then as now, chrysanthemums bloomed alongside suburban streets, carpeted with fallen leaves. Passersby noticed thin ice on the riverbank between New Milford and River Edge on Monday morning, November 7, 1910.

After drilling through 180 feet of mud about a mile north of Fort Lee and opposite 179th Street, the Phoenix Construction Company determined on July 20, 1910, that the site was unsuitable for the westerly foundations of the proposed Hudson River Bridge. Most New York Commissioners had favored this site.

The Fort Lee Phytosaur, *Rutiodon manhattanensis*. Fossil skeleton was found in 1911. One publication claims it was Edgewater where it was found. Late Triassic, 200 million years old.

The specimen was found about twenty feet below the thick sheet of diabase of the Palisades in a red sandy marl, on the right bank of the Hudson River, opposite New York City. *Natural History, Volume 22, Journal of the American Museum of Natural History, available on Google Books.* (The New York institution was apparently anxious to claim it for New York, no other skeletons at that time were found in or near NYC.)

Image: <http://www.hmnh.org/archives/2007/10/21/phytosaur-portraits/>



A new survey and test borings were scheduled for the vicinity of Cliffside, opposite 110th Street. In the spring of 1911, rambling Columbia students discovered a dinosaur fossil at the base of the Palisades, opposite West 155th Street. Curators from the Museum of Natural History employed rock drillers to free the skeleton at low tide.

Contractor Jeremiah A. Voorhis, of Hackensack, broke ground in August 1910 on a new one-story brick factory for the Franco-American Soup Company at the corner of Grand and Hackensack Avenues in River Edge, completing the work that October.

Brick walls for the new jail were going up in the rear of the old one in October 1910. Workers acid washed the outer walls of the new prison, under construction directly in the rear of the old Court House, on February 14, 1911, expecting to finish work on the jail before the new marble Court House was completed.

The Democratic State Convention, held at the Taylor Opera House in Trenton, nominated Woodrow Wilson for Governor on September 15, 1910. His tour through Bergen County on October 27, 1910, met with an enthusiastic reception, even in the Republican stronghold of Rutherford. On Election Day, November 8th, Bergen County voters registered their disapproval of "bossed politics," giving Democratic candidates majorities ranging from 100 up to 3,000. The new Board of Chosen Freeholders consisted of 15 Democrats, 10 Republicans and 2 Independents. Professor Woodrow Wilson defeated Republican gubernatorial candidate, Vivian M. Lewis, by about 35,000 votes. Voters also elected Democrat William Hughes to Congress.



William Randolph Hearst

Hackensack voters chose Democrat Charles W. Bell for President of the Hackensack Improvement Commission over his Republican opponent, Dr. M. R. Brinkman, by 700 votes. Charles Bell was a founder of the Paper Novelty Company of Dayton, Ohio, in 1889. Jubilant, the Hackensack Democratic Club planned a reception and dinner at the Susquehanna Cafe for Mayor-elect Bell on or about December 10, 1910, when he was expected home from a business trip to Scotland.

Bell, who received word of his election by cablegram in London, assumed office on January 2, 1911. At this time, he was involved with William Randolph Hearst and several foreign capitalists in building a large paper mill on Coles Brook in River Edge. In May 1911, he transferred his interest in the 50-acre tract, including the historic

Steuben House, to the American Ink Company, whose officers were Solomon Solis Carvalho, President; printer and photographer George E. Pancoast, secretary; and George W. Palmer, of Hackensack, treasurer. Solomon Carvalho, of Portuguese-Jewish ancestry, was general manager of all Hearst newspapers and president of the New York Evening Journal Publishing Company. By July 1911, the American Ink Company's new plant was doing a brisk business.

While dredging the millpond from the mouth of Coles Brook inland to the site of the proposed paper mill, workmen unearthed one of the ancient millstones of Zabriskie's tidal gristmill. They left another millstone and shaft imbedded in the mud. Andrew Zobriskie, who purchased the old Zabriskie-Steuben House in 1815, established the first commercial brickyard in the Hackensack Valley near the site of the paper mill, where the

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Steuben Arms Apartments now stand on Main Street, River Edge.

River ice captured two coal boats and a sand barge near the Court Street Bridge in Hackensack as winter descended and brick sheds at Little Ferry were put in proper shape to resist winter storms. Trains carried large shipments of cordwood from New Milford Station to New York City. The old Budd furniture factory of Peetzburgh changed hands in December 1910 and was expected to re-open as an embroidery factory. The *Bergen County Democrat* warned readers to “Keep a close watch of Christmas trees on which there are lighted candles.”

Ringling bells, tooting whistles and shooting guns combined for a noisy welcome for the New Year. The first installment of snow arrived on the second day of the year. The Nota King Company was incorporated in River Edge to manufacture a sanitary mouthpiece for drinking cups, recently patented by Dr. Frederick E. Blenckstone, of Oradell. His invention consisted of a disposable wax paper apron, measuring about one by three inches, which folded to fit the rim of an ordinary drinking glass and was clamped in place. Dispensed from closed slot boxes, this sanitary insert

prevented the drinker’s mouth from touching the glass.

Mayor Joseph A. Brohel, A. Z. Bogert, and other leading citizens of River Edge purchased most of the capital stock of \$10,000 in the Nota King Company, which had been divided into \$25 shares. Four Directors voted on March 21, 1911, to locate the plant in Oradell—two voted for River Edge, and one director was absent. Consequently, Dr. Blenckstone outfitted his barn with electricity to power the machinery as soon as it arrived. The Directors also decided to employ a city agent, Frank M. Hoefert, of River Edge, to promote the product by renting show windows in downtown Manhattan and uptown in the theatrical district, where young girls could demonstrate the new sanitary drinking cup.

The State Board of Health Legal served legal notices upon the municipalities of Hackensack, Bogota, Little Ferry, Ridgefield Park, River Edge and Oradell, ordering them to stop emptying sewage into the Hackensack River by January 1, 1914. In other news, Samuel Taylor sold the Mansion House Hotel in Hackensack to proprietor Erwin Shivler. James E. Martin, of Plainfield, was chosen United States Senator to succeed John Kean, of Elizabeth, on January 26, 1911.

The following two articles relate to the time period covered in this issue of A Century Ago and come from Kevin Wright’s research files:

From *The Hackensack Republican*,
October 14, 1909:

The Steuben House

The *Republican* of last week referred to the sale to C. W. Bell of a part of the Zabriskie property at North Hackensack, including the old Baron Steuben House. A gentleman furnishes these interesting facts regarding the house, the property and the former owners:

About 1835 the house was owned and occupied by David A. Zabriskie and



Steuben House by Lewis Blackwell, shows the store

Jane Anderson, his wife. At that time it was quite an important business centre. Capt. Dave, as he was familiarly known, owned and commanded a schooner named "The Farmer." He also had a store adjoining the present building, which has since been removed. Here the farmers would bring in cordwood and exchange it for groceries to supply their family needs, and the schooner would transport the wood to New York, and return with groceries to supply the store. In addition to this he operated a large gristmill, which was situated across the road and south of the present dock. As it was a tide water mill it could only be operated when the tide had fallen a couple of feet, and often the solemn stillness suddenly be broken by the clatter of "Take it, Bob—it's better than tea." About 1852 the mill was totally destroyed by fire, and all that remains today are a few burned piles and the iron shaft, which projects above high water; the lower end of the shaft to which the wheel is attached, is deeply embedded in the sand....

The Zabriskie family relations and associations were always affectionate and pleasant. The children of Capt. David Zabriskie and Jane Anderson who were born and reared here were four sons and one daughter. The eldest was Capt. D. Anderson Zabriskie, who for many years commanded schooners and in later years the tug Wesley Stoney, on the Hackensack River. The next was Cornelius Zabriskie, the Jersey City millionaire, who gave to that city a public park. Then followed Andrew, who conducted a drug store in Jersey City, but died in the early sixties. The

next was John, familiarly known as "Jack," who was employed for many years in the county clerk's office under Samuel Taylor. All have passed away except for the daughter, Christina, who is the wife of Richard Outwater, of Passaic. There are a number of great-grand children living in Hackensack, Passaic and Brooklyn. It is Mr. Bell's intention to preserve the old homestead and to rebuild the dam, where he can store millions of gallons of good spring water for the purpose of making a fine quality of paper.



Schooner at Old Bridge

From the *Ridgewood Herald*,
April 13, 1911:

Death of Thomas Terheun

The funeral of one of Ridgewood's pioneers and a much respected citizen, Thomas Terheun, took place on Monday afternoon. At two o'clock there was a short service at the homestead on Maple Avenue and at two-thirty the regular funeral service was held in the Lutheran Church at Saddle River, where the Rev. Dr. M. L. Snyder, pastor of the church, officiated. The principal address was by the Rev. J. A. Van Neste, of the Reformed Church at this village, who was a life-long friend of Mr. Terheun. The Rev. Henry D. Cook, pastor of the Paramus Church also spoke. The church choir sang two selections. The interment was in the Lutheran cemetery adjoining the church at Saddle River.

The homestead in which Mr. Terheun was born and which had been his residence up to a short time before his death, had been in the possession of his ancestors for 144 years. The land was purchased in 1767 and was known as tract 19 of [Gov. Carteret's ?]

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SABOTAGE

by Jack Goudswaard

“Sabotage” – a work that would strike fear in the hearts of all patriotic citizens. Are there enemies among us? Where will they strike? Is our war production protected? Constant vigilance was the order of the day. But all was not what it seemed.

The first instance of suspected sabotage occurred in the early hours of October 14, 1942. It happened at the Wortendyke Station and involved six rail cars fully loaded with coal. The derailment occurred at 4:30 A.M. when the cars were being moved. As the engine backed in the line of six cars and hooked on to the last car in line, the other five started to roll. As each hit the switch leading to the main line each overturned. This dispensed the cargo of soft coal, used to fuel the engines, about the area. This disrupted service for eight hours. An attempt was made to maintain rail service by using shuttle trains from Jersey City meeting trains from Butler at Wortendyke and transferring passengers. The line was fully cleared at 1:00 P.M.

Wortendyke, being part of Midland Park, Police Captain Jacob Osenga was called in to investigate this mishap. His investigation disclosed that the coupling pins had been removed from each of the cars. At this point A.L. Kline, General Manager of the Line, asked the F.B.I. to check for sabotage. They investigated and determined that it was an accident.

As the populous of Franklin Lakes went about their day to day war time duties of home, Civilian Defense, war work, salvage drives and planting their Victory Gardens. Something ominous happened. They soon

found out that their gardens were under attack. But not by our enemies from across ocean, but by four footed forth column-cows. It seems those local owners were turning the cows loose to feed at night. The idea was that they would feed on the grass along the local unfinished highway. But the cows had other ideas. They went to the lawns and gardens to the homes in town. The owners complained to the Town Council. They cited Frank Wagonhoffer as the offending person. The council was notified that gardens were destroyed and action must be taken. It was also noted that all the complaints came from Pulis Ave.

As complaints increased the town father looked for a way to stop the problem. They found that they had no way to control the nuisance. So they directed the town attorney to draft an ordinance. This ordinance states that all cattle owners are responsible for and must corral their cows. This ended this problem.

Finally it might not have been sabotage, but a fortunate quark of good luck. It seems that early in November 1943 both High School Busses were out of commission. The students waited in vain for the busses to come. The girls did. The boys went hunting. It was opening day of hunting season. ❖

REFERENCES CITED

Wyckoff News *Cows Destroy Victory Gardens* 8/12/1943

Boro Council has *Cattle Problem* 11/11/1943

Gosh! It's Sabotage 11/11/1943

Paterson Evening News *Seek FBI Inquiry as Train is Derailed at Wortendyke* 10/14/1942

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, especially through the preservation and study of its material culture. We are the only historical association to focus on the Bergen County as a whole, from its prehistory to the present day. Our museum collections are presently on display in a limited basis at Historic New Bridge Landing. Public programs include educational events, placement of informative roadside historical markers, museum exhibits, monthly lectures, library collection, website and message board. We are the largest landowner at HNBL. We are not a government agency and presently receive no regular or significant public funding, we rely on private donations and membership.



A BCCHS Cookbook

by *BCCHS Trustee Barbara Flurchik*

The Committee is very pleased to announce our work on a cook book, which we plan to sell as a fund raiser for the Society. We are asking for donations of Recipes and Stories. We would be delighted to record recollections of your culinary adventures as well.

Although there are literally thousands of cook books on the market, ours will be very different.

After all, we have a working Dutch Out-Kitchen, complete with soot, smoke, hot coals, broken dishes, dead bread, Mary's spectacular corn chowder, Ms. Doreen's wondrous flaky biscuits, and roasted slippery chicken and all.

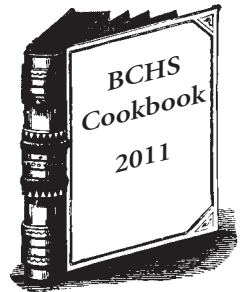
The committee welcomes any and all submissions, notes, inquiries, letters, photos and phone calls.

Phone: 1-202-815-6523, please leave message.

Send all material to: Attn: Cook Book, BCCHS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661-0055

PS: The mystery of the dead bread will not be revealed until our cook book is published. Thank you one and all

Mary Karr, Doreen ___ and Barbara Flurchik ❖



A Century Ago continued from page 15

Ramapo grant. Prior to 1800, a large mill was erected on the property, which was used in turn for woodturning, the manufacture of woolens, and later for cotton and shoddy goods. During the Revolution there was erected a smelting furnace where shot and such ironwork as is required for war equipment was manufactured.

This building was destroyed by fire in 1878 and the new structure erected on the old foundation was the first factory of the now gigantic Peerless Rubber Co. The mill was never operated by the Terheun family but always leased to the various manufacturers. The property which has a frontage of 1,500 feet on Maple Avenue, is in one of Ridgewood's finest residential sections, and extends east to beyond the tracks of the new trolley line.

The Terheun family consisted of father, mother, a daughter and two sons. They have all gone in the order named. The sons never married. The brother, Peter O., died five years ago. From 1886 to 1898 the brothers were officials of Ridgewood Township, Peter acting as Collector and Thomas, who was better known as "Tommy," was Assessor. Both were strong believers in the principles of the Republican party.

Mr. Terheun, who had reached his 65th year, was boarding at 44 Seventeenth Avenue, Paterson. On Friday night he was seized with a hemorrhage and died sitting in his chair. His brother also died suddenly of apoplexy. The nearest relatives to whom the valuable estate will go are a brother-in-law, John Raymond Ackenback, of Saddle River, and a nephew, Everett L. Zabriskie and the Hackensack Trust Company are the executors. ❖

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
contactBCCHS@bergencountyhistory.org

Headline News: The Life and Transformation of the Great American Newspaper Thursday, September 23, 2010, 7:30 pm

Terry Golway will follow the headlines from Lincoln's assassination to the moon landing with stops along the way. Mr. Golway is the director of the John Kean Center for American History at Kean University and serves as the University's liaison with Liberty Hall Museum. This former member of The NY Times editorial board is a columnist whose work has been published in many magazines and papers.

Lecture location: No fee. Second Reformed Church, 436 Union St., Hackensack, NJ.

Walk along New Milford Greenway • FRIENDS OF GREENWAY EVENT Saturday, September 25, 2010, 10:00 am

Join **Mike Trepicchio**, Chairman of Historic New Bridge Landing, BCBS President and Board member of Friends of the Greenway on a walk through the New Milford Greenway. Meet at the beginning of the New Milford Greenway (Going north on River Road make a U-turn on New Bridge Road. After U-turn, pass light on River Road and continue west on New Bridge Road. Make third right (Lynnwood Avenue) before coming to the river, then the first left (Clinton Street). Park your car and the Greenway will be at the end of the street.

Baron von Steuben and his Jersey Estate Sunday, September 26, 2010, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

The BCBS will honor **Major-General Friedrich Wilhelm Baron von Steuben** at Historic New Bridge Landing, 1201-1209 Main Street, River Edge, NJ 07661. Re-enactors of the Third NJ Regiment (aka Jersey Blues) will demonstrate military dress and skills of the American Revolution. Displaying Jersey artifacts and furnishings, the Steuben and Demarest Houses will be open to visitors. Refreshments and a gift shop are available in the Campbell-Christie House, a restored tavern house dating back to 1774. A Jersey Dutch Out Kitchen will demonstrate culinary arts of the period. At 4 PM, historian Kevin Wright will speak in the Steuben House on Baron von Steuben and his Jersey Estate, emphasizing his significant contribution to the training and organization of the American army. More info about the event is on the website. Location: HNBL, 1201-1209 Main St, River Edge, NJ. By donation, Adults \$7, Ch \$5, BCBS members free.



The common British soldier: Who was he? Tuesday, September 28, 2010

Today he's often perceived as a conscript, jailbird, or monster, but that's not a fair judgment, according to the historical record. So says Rhode Island researcher and author **Don Hagist**, who will provide details of typical Redcoats' origins, experience, training, and army careers. His books will be available for purchase. American Revolutionary Roundtable Event: The Iron Horse, Westwood. Come between 6:30 and 7:00 PM for conversation and fellowship.

Hackensack River Story Night Friday, October 1, 2010, 8:00 pm

- Exhibit & Sale of River-inspired Art
- Water-themed Music throughout the Night

A Celebration of the River through Words & Art...

Bergen Swan Annual Fund-raiser takes the form of a story-telling and art exhibit/sale on Friday evening, October 1 at the Church of Holy Communion in Norwood. Both the stories and art will celebrate our very own Hackensack River. Four speakers will tell a river reading or story. Tickets will be \$25/person, and can be reserved in advance by calling or emailing Bergen SWAN. bergenswan@sprynet.com

French Cemetery Tour

Sunday, October 10, 2010, , 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Kevin Wright leads a walking tour from the Steuben House to the French Cemetery, New Milford (approx. one mile each way). Explore the French Patent. By donation.

BCHS School Of Interpretation

Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 7:30 pm

Meet at the Steuben House this month to learn New Bridge Landing tour history. On-going series of classes, please join us. No admission.

Artists in the Ramapo Mountains

Thursday, October 21, 2010, 7:30 pm

The scenic beauty of the Ramapo Mountains have attracted many artists, particularly during the 19th century when Hudson River steamboats and the Erie Railroad provided easy access. Hudson River school Artists Jasper Cropsey, David Johnson, John Kensett and others produced magnificent paintings and engravings. In the 20th century the Ramapo Mountains were depicted by Man Ray and John Marin. See a visual survey of over a hundred works of art with remarks by **Geoff Welch**, Curator of Harmony Hall in Sloatsburg, N.Y. and the Ramapo River Watershed Keeper. Lecture location: No fee. Second Reformed Church, 436 Union St., Hackensack, NJ.

Washington's Winters in New Jersey

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Everyone knows about the Continental Army's hard winter at Valley Forge. But the commander and his soldiers spent three long, grueling winters in New Jersey. **Dr. Raymond Frey**, Professor of History at Centenary College, Hackettstown, will detail how Washington held the ragged, hungry army together against all odds and in the coldest conditions. American Revolutionary Roundtable Event: The Iron Horse, Westwood. Come between 6:30 and 7:00 PM for conversation and fellowship.

Bergen County's Historical Harvest Home-Coming

Saturday, October 30, 2010, 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

We are working on a photographic exhibit, entitled "A Restless Heritage," to highlight Bergen County cemeteries and old burial grounds, which bear silent witness to those who made our history. We are looking for an appropriate speaker to discuss preservation efforts surrounding one of our endangered family-farm burying yards. Roseanne Pelligrino and Roger Yaden will do a dramatic presentation of Cornelius Banta's 1903 letter, detailing the origin of New Bridge's own *Legend of the Spook Brook*. Besides our usual period refreshments, we also hope to offer a musical treat for visitors to round All Hallow's Eve. Location: HNBL, 1201-1209 Main St, River Edge, NJ. By donation, Adults \$7, Ch \$5, BCHS members free.





Bergen County Historical Society

P.O. Box 55

River Edge, NJ 07661-0055

Address Service Requested

**EVENT LISTING is
on PAGES 18 & 19**

**No Post Card reminder
will go out regarding
September & October Events!**

Note: If a ** appears after your name—it is time to renew your membership. Thank you!