



# In Bergen's Attic

SUMMER 2019

## President's Message

Some say that history repeats itself and that is why we study it. Others say we learn history to change the present by gaining a greater understanding of the past. Whatever the reason, history continues to be made at Historic New Bridge Landing and if history is any indicator, we look forward to the future. This past year saw countless events that drew in audiences from all over New Jersey and beyond. It is because of this diverse and engaging story that visitors and members alike keep coming back to New Bridge. It is through the support of our members and dedication of our volunteers that these events are made possible.

Speaking of New Bridge, we continue to engage the community and we were happy to support two Eagle Scout projects, one, an information kiosk in Lower Brett Park and the other, the addition of correct cabinet doors and a basement door at the Christie House based on historical and architectural information. Both of these additions will continue to help tell the story at New Bridge that we want to tell. The first engages the visitors and will eventually encourage them to explore the rest of the park. Eventually, new interpretative panels will be placed to



encourage exploration and foster learning. The other helps to continue to tell the story of the Campbell Christie House and will allow visitors to better appreciate the setting that the house provides. It is a house that still has many mysteries waiting to be discovered.

The Society has made progress with the long awaited Museum Building Project. Many volunteers have spent countless hours raising funds, discussing and planning this once in a generation project. But we are not done yet. The Society has over 4,000 pieces in its collection that tell the diverse



EAGLE SCOUT BRIAN P. BUILDS NEW DOORS FOR THE CABINETS BY THE FIREPLACES IN THE CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE

story of our culturally rich county and state. This story, which defines our mission is something we have done since 1902 and will continue to do for future generations. Ultimately it is our belief that this structure will further discussions on local history and be the center of learning in a 21st century museum space. Stay tuned as we provide further updates and how you help be a part of the generation that makes history at Historic New Bridge Landing.

— James Smith

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## Making Each Event Special

By Carol Restivo



Our eleven member Events Planning Committee meets the first Wednesday of the month in the CCH and plans each event geared to the season combined with Bergen County history (with children's activities.) After months of preparation, 25-35 volunteers on site that day will successfully execute each one. As a Revolutionary War site where eleven battles/skirmishes took place, we continue historic events leading up to the Nation's 250th Anniversary. The 240th Anniversary of the Attack on Paulus Hook in August and in November is the 243rd Anniversary of the British Invasion/American Retreat includes a reading of Thomas Paine's *The American Crisis* on the **Bridge That Saved a Nation**. March to 2020 recognizes Women's History in anticipation of the 100th anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote. Perennial favorites are a **Country Ball** for Washington's birthday and Dutch spring (**Pinkster**) with maypole dancing, live music and egg dyeing. **Memorial Day** has a wreath laying on Gen. Enoch Poor's tomb, Hackensack.

Summer brings a **Vintage Baseball** double-header, an **Evening Lantern Tour** and a day-time kite flying event for children. **Baronfest (Steuben's Birthday)**, **Harvest Homecoming**, **Sinter Klaas** (an open house) and our **Annual Christmas Concerts** all round out the year.

We try and reflect the whole history and breadth of all the people who have lived here in Bergen County from the early Lenape and their culture (Chwame Gischuch/ **Under the Shad Moon**) to the annual **Naturalization Ceremony** for swearing in our new citizens, starting their own history right here in the Steuben House - a humbling and inspiring experience.

**Hamilton Concert**, **Wine & Chocolate Tasting** and **Middle Passage** are new offerings as we add more of our history, so consider not just attending but help make them happen as a volunteer!

*Get your tickets to the Annual BCHS Dinner Thursday, June 13th at the Brick House, Wyckoff.*



**Bon Voyage to Janet and Bill King** on their move to the Midwest to be with family



Janet made significant contributions to the Society as the Membership Chair, in events planning and organizing, also in her leadership as a BCHS trustee. We will miss her greatly as a friend, as well.



When researching Kevin's forthcoming book I came across this really great map by John André. It's at the end of his journal, June 11, 1777 - Nov. 15, 1778.

The whole map will be included in a Revolutionary War map exhibit this summer at the Steuben House along with journal pages where he wrote about New Bridge and Baylor's Massacre.

Note the map shows the Steuben House, Zabriskie's Tide Mill, bridge, and forts on Brower Hill. The map shows position of Cornwallis at New Bridge.

Citation: Journal of John André. HM 626. The Huntington Library, San Marino, CA. Deborah Powell, Museum Collection Chair.



**BCHS CHOCOLATE & WINE TASTING**



**PINKSTER MAYPOLE AND TRI-CORN DANCERS BY THE CCH**



**HISTORIC RETREAT FROM FORT LEE TO NEW BRIDGE LANDING**



**ENSLAWS WITH FIDDLE AND DULCIMER**



**THE WESTERVELT-THOMAS BARN WITH BATTLE MAP**



**NATIVE AMERICAN FLINT-KNAPPING AT THE STEUBEN HOUSE**



**OUT KITCHEN PREPARES TRADITIONAL DUTCH DELIGHTS FOR SINTER KLAAS**



**DECORATING FOR HOLIDAY CONCERTS**



**GUEST LECTURE ON THE MIDDLE PASSAGE**



**PREPARING REFRESHMENTS IN THE CCH**

## The Rappahannock Forge Cavalry Sabre of the American Revolution

Erik Goldstein



By 1775, the lethal combo of firelock & bayonet ruled the battlefield, having eclipsed the time-honored sword as the “go to” weapon of choice. Though not obsolete by any means, swords were largely relegated to the scabbards of those few soldiers still carrying them, with one large exception; the cavalry. As the Revolutionary War ramped up and shifted focus towards the American South, the numbers of mounted troops ballooned from few hundred to many thousands by war’s end.

With effective cavalry sabers a scarcity in the Continental Army, and with the increasing need for mounted troops by Washington’s forces, those made for the Loyalists by James Potter in New York City became a sought-after prizes, in a fashion similar to the German Luger of WWI and WWII fame, but with one difference. A “Potter” sword wasn’t just a nifty souvenir; it became the primary arm and a potential lifesaver in the hands of the American dragoon. “Light-Horse Harry” Lee’s Legion and Marion’s Brigade are amongst the most famous Revolutionary American units documented as having preferred these sabres.

If the use of captured sabers wasn’t enough, the Patriots took it one step further by attempting to copy them. James Hunter’s Rappahannock Forge iron works in Virginia was producing armaments in large quantities for the Continental Army, when Maj. Richard

Call of the 3rd Regiment of Light Dragoons wrote the following to Gov. Thomas Jefferson on 29 March 1781: *I have received Express*

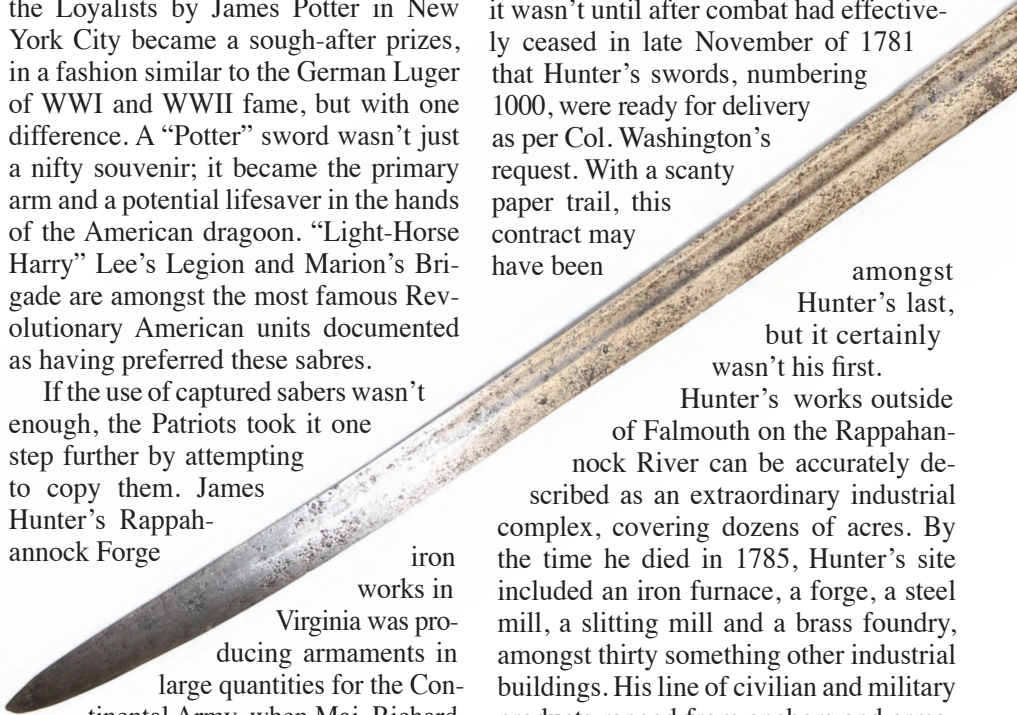
*from Lieut. Colo. Washington one Horseman’s sword taken in the late action at Guilford Court House, which he directs me to send Mr. Hunter as a pattern and have swords made for the men.*

Further along in the letter, Call states; *“the sword is the most destructive and almost only necessary weapon a Dragoon carries.”* (Calendar of State Papers [Jefferson], Vol. I, p. 606).

Since the only Loyalist or British cavalry at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was the mounted contingent of Tarleton’s Legion, who were all armed with Potter sabres, the example sent to Hunter for replication was certainly one. However, it wasn’t until after combat had effectively ceased in late November of 1781 that Hunter’s swords, numbering 1000, were ready for delivery as per Col. Washington’s request. With a scanty paper trail, this contract may have been

amongst Hunter’s last, but it certainly wasn’t his first.

Hunter’s works outside of Falmouth on the Rappahannock River can be accurately described as an extraordinary industrial complex, covering dozens of acres. By the time he died in 1785, Hunter’s site included an iron furnace, a forge, a steel mill, a slitting mill and a brass foundry, amongst thirty something other industrial buildings. His line of civilian and military products ranged from anchors and arma-



BCHS COLLECTIONS-  
SEE OUR SWORD  
ON DISPLAY.



ments to down to saddles, farm equipment and nails. No doubt local sources of iron and its remote location off the Chesapeake, coupled with State monies, helped the operation thrive and develop exponentially. Few traces of the complex remain above ground today, contributing to the obscurity which densely cloaks Hunter and Rappahannock Forge today.

Shortly before the Declaration of Independence was signed Virginia was looking to Hunter for arms, and he was asked to manufacture muskets and bayonets on 22 June 1776

(Calendar of State Papers, Vol. I, p. 440).

Early in the following year Hunter received State contracts to outfit complete units of light dragoons. On 7 February 1777 Patrick Henry, writing as Governor, ordered that; a Letter be addressed to Mr. James Hunter desiring him immediately to proceed to fabricate so many arms requisite for Cavalry as may be sufficient to arm a Regiment compleat.

Hunter's need for labor increased, so he took out an add on the front page of the July 4, 1777 issue of the Virginia Gazette looking for "Sithe and Sword cutlers," showing that such work was proceeding at Rappahannock Forge. Writing from Valley Forge on 29 April 1778, General Washington mentioned that Continental Dragoon Colonels Baylor and Bland had procured their regiments' swords from Hunter, proving that Rappahannock Forge also supplied swords to Patriot entities other than the State of Virginia.

James Hunter had surely seen a Potter sabres long before Lt. Col. Washington

sent him one following the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in early 1781. That being said, he cut corners for one reason or another, no doubt to save precious funds. Further insight into Hunter's sword production can be garnered by studying not just those he made, but the few surviving cavalry pistols he produced as well.

The typical example of a Hunter dragoon sabre incorporates a slotted "stirrup" shaped guard clearly copied from that made by Potter, included the idiosyncratic ring at the terminus of the knucklebow. Although Hunter's shop copied Potter's guard, he did not match the New York cutler's high quality. Its straight-sided spiral grip is covered with leather and bound with a single strand of iron wire in a manner reminiscent of Potter's grip. However, Hunter included a simple flat disc pommel instead of the high domed version as an economy, depriving these weapons of the essential counterbalance provided by a heavy pommel.

He marked his hilts by striking an "H" into the outside of the knucklebow, near the bend where it transitions into the counterguard. In addition to Hunter's "H," the knucklebow of Colonial Williamsburg's example (2010-254) carries the engraved Continental Army marks "1T - P L D - N 22," meaning this sword was number 22 issued to the 1st Troop

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# Brower's Hill and Sluckup in Olden Times

By Kevin Wright

Overlooking the surrounding lowlands to the east, south and west, Cherry Hill in River Edge rises 113 feet above sea level, providing a commanding view across the Hackensack Valley to the Palisades. Cherry Hill was first called Brower's Hill, after a family of that surname who lived along Main Street at the foot of the slope. According to the inscription upon his tombstone in the burial ground at the Dutch Reformed Church on the Green in Hackensack, Abraham J. Brower "naturalized, June 21, 1767, belonged to the Continental army of 1776, and died March 21, 1837." He came from Long Island and took up residence along Main Street, River Edge, at the foot of the eminence, renamed Cherry Hill when the railroad came to town in 1870.

Following the brook that winds down the hill back to its several springs, one came to Sluckup, a curious name planted by the Bantas, a family from the North Sea province of Frisia, who yet speak a Scandinavian dialect quite distinct from



the Dutch language: *slakki* (slack, in English) describes a small valley or boggy hollow. The name has changed over time: Slokeup (1774), Slokup (1792), Sluckup (1793), Slockup (1806). In 1832, the old name was almost literally translated into the more euphonic Spring Valley. A gullible historian even humorously suggested in 1876 that the place earned its name when a cow "slucked up" a farmer's linen coat from a fence.

Beyond the shallow swale where Van Saun Park is now found, yet another ridge rises to the west. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, this was "the hill commonly called the Cacel Rugh at the road [now Howland Avenue] which leads from the New Bridge to Sluckup." Kachgel Ruygte derives from Kachgel (meaning stove) and ruygte (meaning a thicket, bramble-bushes or shavings of wood) and translates as Stove-Kindling. Several livingsprings feed Van Saun and Herring Brooks, which drain Sluckup before contributing their commingled waters to Cole's Brook and the Hackensack River. Long ago, beasts of the forest drew near to drink the cool stream; they in turn attracted predators. A wolf-pit reportedly was located east of Spring Valley Road, near the confluence of the upper branches of the Mill Brook, and within the present confines of Van Saun Park. A sandy loam predominates in this dale, before changing to clay near the Hackensack River.

But there were still older names in the neighborhood: Aschatking, Steenrapie and Kinderkamack. The farming neighborhood lying along the road leading from Old Bridge to New Bridge was curiously called Steenrapie, later corrupted into Stony Arabia. Steen is the Dutch word for "stone," which prompts some to

I'm delighted to report that my late husband, historian Kevin Wright's publisher, has accepted my proposal for the book he was working on when he died in October 2016.

***The Bridge that Saved a Nation: Bergen County, New Bridge and the Hackensack Valley***

It will be available in Fall 2019 if all goes well. I'm making all royalties from the sale of the book go to benefit the Bergen County Historical Society.

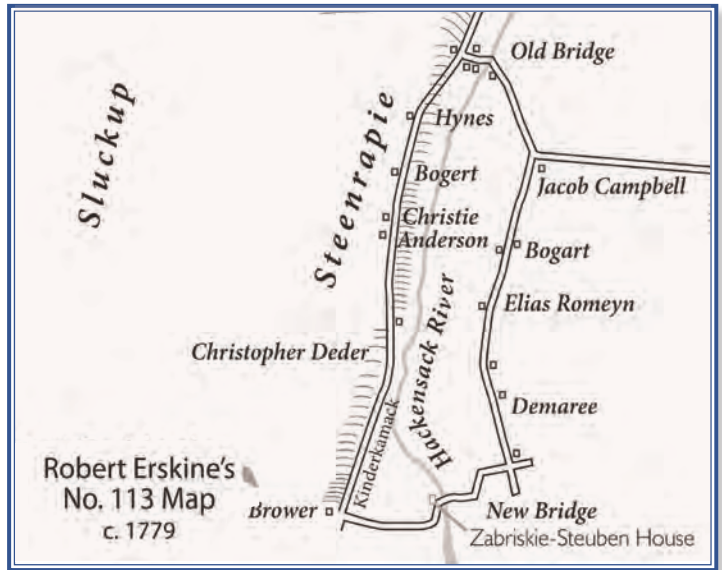


mistakenly believe—as with the kinder in Kinderkamack—that the word is of Dutch origin. Most likely, Steenrapie is an approximation of the Algonquian word, Lenacki, meaning “high ground, upland.” The countryside atop the hill, extending from northern River Edge into Emerson was anciently known as Kinderkamack; the path leading up from Hackensack was called the Kinderkamack path or road.

At the time of the American Revolution, Howland Avenue marked the line between gristmiller Cornelius Van Saun’s farm to the south and son-in-law Christian Dederer’s farm to the north. Hendrick C. Banta lived west of the Muelekel or Mill Creek, which flows through Van Saun Park. Exactly when the Van Sauns built a stone dam in the hollow below the conjunction of several spring brooks and erected a gristmill is unrecorded, but on May 1, 1750, neighbor Jan Banta, devised “all the rest of my land lying on the west side of a run of water called the Muelekel [Mill Creek]” to his son Cornelius Banta. Tax Ratables for New Barbados Precinct identify Cornelius Van Saun as owner of a gristmill from September 1779 through at least 1797. He is not listed as owner in September 1802, having died in that year; a deed then referred to “the mill lot belonging to Luke Van Saun.” It was sold to Nicholas Romine before 1815.

When six thousand British invaders waded ashore at Paulus Hook on September 22, 1778, friends of American Inde-

pendence feared a decisive march northward along the Hudson River to “cut off the communication between the Southern and Eastern states.” The Continental army,



MAP REDRAWN BY DEBORAH POWELL, BASED ON THE ORIGINAL.

reinforced by a large body of Jersey militia, kept just beyond reach of their deadly opponent and alert for any sign of determined motion. The British swiftly advanced to New Bridge, dug in at Brower’s Hill and stretched a defensive line across the peninsula, eastward through Liberty Pole to the Palisades. By this means, “they confined themselves to a small portion of country, between two navigable rivers, exposing only a small front, impenetrable by its situation, and by works thrown up for its further security.” The invaders then set about stripping the countryside of its fresh harvest and fattened cattle, engaging a fleet of about one hundred small vessels to haul plunder down the Hackensack River. Some farmers thought that the devouring host seemed “much fonder of forage than of fighting.”

According to Abram D. Banta, the Bergen Militia under Captain Outwater,

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were “watching to counteract the movement of the enemy near New Bridge and Schrawlenburg, seeking opportunities for foraging incursions, and to attack the Fort on Brower’s Hill, now New Bridge.” Abram Banta and “his company marched within three or four hundred yards when the enemy fired cannon upon them while they were going into the Fort, and Gen. Wayne, on account of the inequality of

On September 13th, General Washington and six allied Native American chiefs rode in front of the Continental army on parade review. General Washington, the Marquis de LaFayette and General Knox departed for Hartford, Connecticut, on September 17th to meet the newly arrived commanding officers of the French fleet and army. The Continental Army decamped from Steenrapie on September 20th.



his force, retreated to where his brigade remained three or four weeks.” It was likely during this brief encounter that a cannon ball struck the hill west of the Van Saun millpond; it was dug out of the earth and displayed in the mill until about 1888.

To prevent any British interference with the landing of allied French troops in Rhode Island, General Washington moved the Continental Army into a position to challenge the British military stronghold on Manhattan.

On September 4, 1780, the Continental Army encamped at Steenrapie, west of the Hackensack River, between New Bridge and Kinderkamack. During their stay, Hendrick C. Banta sold a barrel of cider from his mill to the troops “every other day.” His son Cornelius Banta, then 10 years old, reportedly “saugh Washington three times on his hors.” The Commander-in-Chief’s presence hereabout gave rise to the name of the Washington Spring.

Here is my text for the Bergen County Historical Society Historic Blue Marker at the Washington Spring in Van Saun Park:

### Washington Spring

Howland Avenue divided the farms of miller Cornelius Van Saun to the south and Christian Dederer to the north. Hendrick Banta lived west of Mill Creek.

The Continental Army moved into Bergen County in August 1780 to forage for food and to await the French army and fleet for a campaign to drive the British from New York City.

From September 4th to the 20th, 1780, about 14,000 American troops encamped on Kinderkamack ridge.

Hendrick Banta sold them cider from his mill. His ten-year-old son Cornelius saw Washington three times on his horse. His presence here gave rise to the name of the Washington Spring.

Dedicated in 2005 by the County of Bergen.  
Kevin Wright passed October 2016

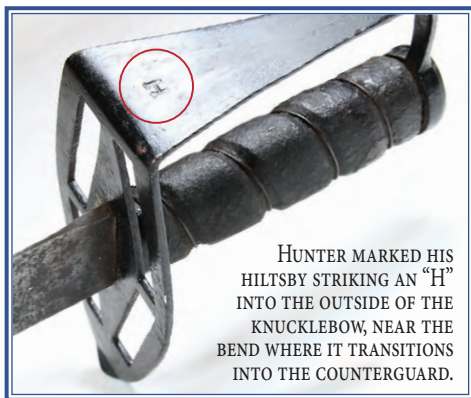


of Brigadier General Casimir Pulaski's Light Dragoons. This unit existed from 1778 until early 1780, when it was incorporated into Armand's Legion after Pulaski's death at Savannah in October, 1779. Adding credence are the identically-styled markings for both Pulaski's and Armand's Legions found on cavalry pistols made by Hunter for them.

Although Hunter looked to hire scythe and/or bladesmiths, he may never have achieved satisfactory results. Let's face it; the bar was set pretty high by Potter. That this phenomenon may be true is the complete absence of blades which carry Hunter's name or mark, suggesting that he may not have been making blades at the rate he intended to, if at all.

Consequently, Hunter's swords have been observed with an interesting variety of blades incorporated into them. In the case of the sword marked to Pulaski's Legion, Hunter mounted his hilt on a commonly imported triple-fullered blade of European manufacture.

Others, like the one owned by BCHS, are seen with American-made blades, and at least one has been noted mounted on a blade signed by a Philadelphia maker. While more research is needed to deter-



HUNTER MARKED HIS HILTSBY STRIKING AN "H" INTO THE OUTSIDE OF THE KNUCKLEBOW, NEAR THE BEND WHERE IT TRANSITIONS INTO THE COUNTERGUARD.

mine which blades, if any, were made by Hunter, it seems that he used whatever he could get his hands on to fulfill his wartime orders for dragoon swords.

We know that the Potter sabres produced in British-occupied New York City were highly prized by both sides, and James Hunter's production of "knock-offs" expanded the tiny pool of locally-made weapons. Thus, the marked sabres of Hunter and Potter, which saw very heavy service in combat, are truly the ultimate swords of the American Revolution!

Erik Goldstein has been Colonial Williamsburg's Senior Curator of Mechanical Arts & Numismatics since 2002. As a self-proclaimed coin nerd and Revolutionary War junkie, he loves to write about his favorite subjects. Let's go Mets!  
Todd Braisted provided BCHS contact to Erik Goldstein.

### IN MEMORIAM - BCHS BIDS A FINAL ADIEU TO TWO OF ITS VOLUNTEERS



**Elaine Krieger** of Fair Lawn was a familiar face to those who frequent our Black Horse Tavern in the Campbell-Christie House. A retired nurse who had worked with disabled veterans, she brought the same gentle kindness to her volunteering at New Bridge, greeting and serving our visitors. It was Elaine's love of history and of dancing that led her to join the Tricorne Dance Ensemble, and that happily led her to volunteering at HNBL.



**Shirley Jones** of New Milford was one of our behind-the-scenes, but vital, volunteers. While a teacher, she helped develop a garden at her school; in retirement, she brought her green thumb to New Bridge. As a member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Shirley worked on our tavern garden and with plantings throughout the site, as well as securing donations of needed materials for HNBL events.

BOTH LADIES WILL BE MISSED FOR THEIR WORK, THEIR DEDICATION, AND THEIR ENTHUSIASM FOR HNBL. THE BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFERS ITS CONDOLENCES TO THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS.

# Huyler's Landing

By Peggy Norris



Imagine walking south along the Hudson River from Alpine Boat Basin. The cliffs of the Palisades are on your right, the wooded, top three or four hundred feet above. At the foot of the sheer wall is a tumble of angular boulders that have fallen from the face. To your left is a narrow beach. This narrow strip of land extends from Piermont to Fort Lee and is known as Undercliff. Although today it seems uninhabitable, the people who lived here made a good living. Ben Westervelt reported, "There probably were few places in this, or any other country, where so good a living could be obtained with so little effort." The inhabitants had access to fish, stone, wood and ready transportation to New York City and other communities on the Hudson.

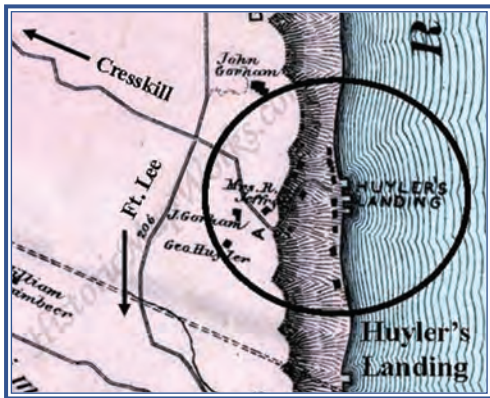
After you have walked for a mile you come to Huyler's Landing, now just a wide beach and the stone remnants of an ancient dock. Although it has returned to nature, this place played an important role in Bergen County's economy for several centuries. In colonial times there was a rough road down a natural cleft in the Palisades and a tiny dock. Men who farmed the fertile valleys behind the Closter mountain (as it was called) could bring produce on horse-drawn sledges to the dock. It was then called the New Dock or Lower Closter Dock. (Closter Dock being where Alpine Boat Basin is today.)

It was here that Lord Cornwallis and 5,000 British troops invaded Bergen County on November 20, 1776. At that time the dock was part of 180 acres owned by John

Ackerson. Ackerson was a Loyalist who fled to New York City at the start of the Revolution. Since he would not support the rebellion, his property was confiscated by the State of New Jersey in 1778. In 1784, after the close of the Revolution, the State sold Ackerson's property to John Huyler (1748-1818) for £250. Huyler had been a captain in the Bergen County militia and his house had been burned during the war. This property became the center of the Huyler family's large land holdings.

Peter Huyler, John's son, inherited the dock property and took an active interest in the landing. In 1841, he and the other property owners adjacent to the road to Lower Closter Dock agreed to make it a

public road. Peter Huyler improved the dock, added a house (known as the Huyler Dock House), a store house, and a stable. He suggested that the Landing would make an "excellent stand for a county store." Steamboats visited the landing daily. By 1844 Lower



ATLAS OF BERGEN COUNTY. WALKER, 1876

Closter Dock was being called Huyler's Landing. Maps reveal that there were actually several docks at the landing, servicing stone, shipping, steamship, and ship building activities.

In 1840 there were about 200 people living in the vicinity of Huyler's Landing. They were black and white, native and foreign-born, impoverished and wealthy, transient and permanent. They made their living as watermen, fishermen, quarrymen, and ship builders.

Fishing provided food for local families and could be sold at market. The spring shad season might support a family for a

year. Shad was fished with nets anchored to a row of 45-foot poles set in the river. The nets were lifted and reset with the tides twice a day for the six-week run. Each lift of the net could bring in 500 fish. There were also other species of fish, soft clams, and oysters.

In the fertile valleys behind the Closter mountain (Tenaffy, Cresskill and beyond) Bergen County farmers produced grains, milk, butter, apples, produce, strawberries,



HUYLER DOCK HOUSE, HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY, 1936 PALISADES FROM HUYLER'S LANDING, NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

and potatoes. Forty to fifty wagons a day made use of the landing during fruit season. Sloops and later steamboats then transported the farmer and his goods to market in New York City.

From colonial times New York City was also a market for firewood. Trees on the top of the Palisades were cut and pitched over the side of the steep perpendicular rocks. At the river-side they could be sawn and/or split into suitable sizes for transport on the river to New York City. John Jeffrey had a pitching place just south of Huyler's Landing. The transport of firewood would have been good business for the boatmen until the use of coal for heating became popular.

Another product of the Palisades was stone. The trap-rock which forms the Palisades could be made into blocks for paving and made excellent fill for New York City's expanding shoreline. Until late in the 19th century the mining was from the talus

slope below the Palisades, the accumulation of blocks of rock that fell off the face of the Palisades. Many workers who lived at Huyler's were quarrymen and some were skilled block-makers. The purchase of even a small amount of land on the cliff face could set up a family in the quarry business.

By 1840 there was a dry dock at the Landing and ships, mostly sloops, were built there. In 1849, Cornelius Tallman, moved to Huyler's Landing from Nyack. He became the master ship-builder there. In 1862 a 40' steam yacht was sold at Tallman's Dry Dock.

By 1870's, the heyday of Huyler's Landing had passed. The train (1859) and a steam ferry from Alpine (1874), en-



abled farmers to ship goods in easier and cheaper ways. Cornelius Tallman, the master ship-builder died in 1871, likely ending the ship-building. Timber was no longer in such high demand and larger quarries existed elsewhere along the Palisades. Huyler's Dock remains a landmark for hikers and bikers in Palisades Interstate Park.

*To visit Huyler's Landing visit the Palisades Interstate Park and walk 1 mile south on the Shore Trail from Alpine Picnic Area.*

SOURCES: WILLIAM O. ALLISON, "INTERVIEWS," PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK COMMISSION; BERGEN COUNTY DEEDS, G4-490, G4-231; ROBERT DICKINSON, PALISADES INTERSTATE PARK, 1921; JOHN J. HARING, FLOATING CHIPS, 1924; U.S. CENSUS STATISTICS, 1850 AND 1860; ANTHONY WAYNE TO GEORGE WASHINGTON, JULY 18, 1780.

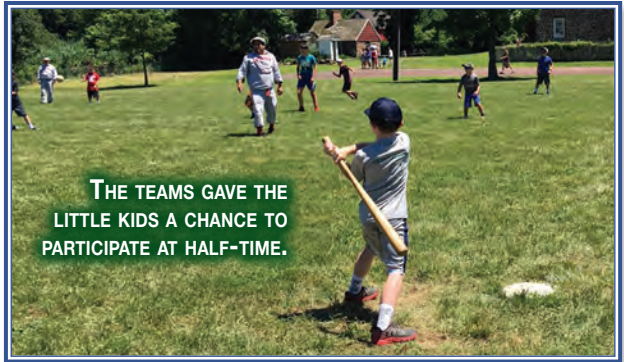
VINTAGE BASEBALL GAME AT  
HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING  
IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13

## The Past is Ever Present at New Bridge: Vintage Baseball

By Kevin Wright

Lithographs, based largely upon eyewitness observations and sketches, record the growing popularity of baseball among soldiers, who played games in camp during leisurely interludes of the American Civil War. Baseball grew into a truly national pastime, as both an athletic competition and spectator sport, when returning veterans established the now standardized game in hometowns from coast to coast. Bergen County newspapers took notice of local baseball games in the postwar years. In an early example, the Enterprise Base Ball Club of New Bridge hosted the Quicksteps of Park Ridge in a game on August 19, 1873, at which the Quicksteps reportedly imported seven “roughs” from Paterson to augment their lineup. After one inning of play, the Paterson players realized that the Enterprise Club was going to be too much for them to overcome and so they “kicked up a row.” Not succeeding with this tactic, “they finally smuggled the ball and the game was over for the day.” Most inhabitants of the neighborhood regarded such conduct as a “display of poor sportsmanship.” Nevertheless, by the end of September 1873, the New Bridge correspondent for the Bergen Democrat boasted, “The Enterprise Base Ball Club are the champion players of the county. No other clubs dare to venture a challenge from them.” The Fearless Baseball Club of New Bridge was organized in July 1881 with Frederick Heine as Captain and Peter Cole as Secretary. Fred Heine, born in New York in 1854, was the son of Carl George Frederick Heine, a German immigrant who was the popular proprietor of

the New Bridge Inn. On July 30, 1881, Heine’s team defeated the Pioneers of Schraalenburgh with a score of 56 to 21. On August 22nd, the Hackensack Baseball Club defeated the Fearless Club at New Bridge, 16 to 2. Captain Heine, of the Fearless Nine, disputed the decision of an empire regarding a fair ball. He consequently lost a dollar bet with the umpire when the rulebook was consulted and Captain Heine was proven wrong in his opinion. On August 27th, the Tenafly Club defeated the Fearless Baseball Club of New Bridge, 21 to 16. In January 1883, local gossip intimated that a baseball team



THE TEAMS GAVE THE  
LITTLE KIDS A CHANCE TO  
PARTICIPATE AT HALF-TIME.

would be organized at New Bridge that spring. But it wasn’t until Saturday, July 16, 1887, that we read how the Enterprise Base Ball Club of Cherry Hill defeated the Hillsdales, 14 to 7. On Saturday, August 20, 1887, the Cherry Hill team again defeated the Hillsdales, 4 to 3. On Saturday, September 17, 1887, Cherry Hill finally outscored the Carlstadt baseball team in the tenth inning, winning 7 to 5. On March 16, 1894, The Bergen Democrat reported baseball supplies were crowding store windows in Hackensack. On June 13, 1896, the Cherry Hill team defeated the River Edge team. The Baseball Athletic Club of River Edge defeated a picked nine from Pearl River, New York, on Saturday, June 20th, by score of 19 to 16.

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR AND LAYOUT