



In Bergen's Attic

Greetings. As I reflect on my first year as President of the Bergen County Historical Society, I am amazed at what our

President's Message

organization has been able to accomplish through the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and through the support of our members. We have also seen a renewed spirit in our mission, preserving and protecting and promoting Bergen County's unique history. This past April, Past Presidents Todd Braisted and Kevin Wright hosted a battlefield bus tour that originated at New Bridge Landing, but quickly took members to explore the Revolutionary War battleground we know as Bergen County.

Historic New Bridge Landing continues to go through a major transformation. Through hard work and the efforts of volunteers, the view from the river landing has once again been opened for all to see. Invasive species (those not native to New Jersey) have been identified and a management program is ongoing. The Society is also grateful for a very generous donation from Let It Grow Inc. of River Edge of 10 beautiful native trees to

New Bridge Landing. With these plantings, our ultimate goal is to soften modern day intrusions to the visitor's experience, as well as providing a positive impact to the local environment. Through the hard work of Deborah Powell, the Society



also invested in a new interpretative sign near the Steuben House.

This sign, made of modern, weather resistant materials is used at historic sites and parks throughout the country and helps to tell the story of New Bridge Landing and the Bergen County Historical Society even when an event is not occurring at the site. While we look to reduce signage in and around the site in the future, I do believe that this type of sign material can help with further interpretation of the site and is a project we will be focusing on for the long term.

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Bergen's First Brewmaster

by *BCHS Past President Todd Braisted*

The Bergen County Historical Society looks to celebrate its first Baronfest this September with history, music, food and beer. Let's look at a combination of two of these elements, history and beer, and why they make a fascinating combination.

With the approach of the American Revolution, life still went on as normal for most Bergen County residents. The turmoil around Boston little affected the inhabitants here: people married, raised children, tended their crops, and in every other respect sought to better themselves. One such individual of Hackensack Township was John Aldington.



Frank McMahon at last year's King Birthday celebration. Frank took a position in North Carolina. Anyone up for becoming Brewmaster at New Bridge?

John Aldington left England in 1768 to make his fortune in the New World, settling in English Neighborhood with the intention of becoming a brewer. Breweries were common in New York City at the time, but his would have been Bergen County's first such establishment. The brewing process effectively killed bacteria in the water, making the resulting product a desired part of the everyday diet and making the provider of such beverages well-to-do at the same time. The location of his brew house is not known, but his mentioning it being converted into a storehouse by the Continental army and its proximity to New York strongly suggests it abutted the land of Fort Lee, adding "that the Brewery from its situation being the only establishment of that kind thereabouts; from its proximity to Hackensack 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."

Aldington's brewery was lost to the war effort, and his brewing skills at least put on indefinite hold while the conflict raged. Aldington was one of many Bergen residents who supported the British, joining them in New York City on the night of September 15th, 1776. Aldington's greatest service to the British would come just over two months later, as one of the three guides used by Lord Cornwallis to lead his 5,000 troops up the Palisades on the invasion of New Jersey. For his loyalty and services, Aldington was commissioned first a captain, and then later major commandant of the corps of Guides & Pioneers. The purpose of this specialized corps was to provide the British Army with armed military laborers, as well as officers specialized in intelligence gathering, cartography and engineering.

The unit would serve in detachment strength in almost every theater of the conflict,

enabling the brewer turned soldier to take part in the taking of Philadelphia and Charleston, the relief of Newport and William Tryon's 1777 excursion to Danbury, Connecticut. The Guides and Pioneers were likewise with Cornwallis on his 1778 Grand Forage in Bergen County, enabling Aldington to visit what had remained of his home, which would shortly thereafter be confiscated by the State of New Jersey for his having joined the British. His property in English Neighborhood (20 acres of land "well situated,") 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, one of over 130 properties in the county to have received that fate. 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.

While we will never know how successful Aldington would have been with his brewery, we can celebrate today with this most historical of beverages. Bergen County has seen a return to brewing with the opening of its first microbrewery, Bolero Snort, established in Ridgefield Park in 2013, probably not more than five miles from where John Aldington first tried his hand at the craft. History in Bergen County has now gone full circle. Cheers! ❖



We depend on you

By BCHS Trustee Kate Reilly

Volunteerism: it's been part of the American way of life since Lexington and Concord and continues to be the force that moves almost every political, charitable, or religious organization in the country. It's the backbone of the Bergen County Historical Society and the means by which we conduct the diversity of events held at New Bridge.

From artists to architects, from students to seniors, from Fair Lawn to Fort Lee, BCHS volunteers come from a variety of occupations, generations, and locations, but each brings something to contribute. Some have a thorough knowledge of an aspect of early American life and are able to share that information with our visitors. Others perform the behind-the-scenes tasks necessary to a successful program from setting up chairs to putting away the dishes. Still others add a touch of realism to an event by portraying Jerseyans of an earlier day in period dress. All share a love of history and the belief that it is important to preserve and share the American story.

To effectively conduct historical programs for the public does require a certain amount of knowledge and expertise, and to that end the Bergen County Historical Society offers the School of Historical Interpretation on the third Wednesday of the month at New Bridge. Historian Kevin Wright shares information and insights into both the important events and the daily life of early Bergen residents as well as helping volunteers develop an effective approach in interpreting New Bridge for the public. All volunteers are most cordially invited and encouraged to attend these free sessions, a great opportunity to increase one's knowledge and to get to know fellow event participants. If you have ever thought that you would like to do something—or do more—at New Bridge, this is an excellent time to become involved. Don't put it off any longer; become a vital part of living history now.

If you are interested in volunteering at New Bridge, please contact the Society through our website contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org. To all those who presently make BCHS events possible, heartfelt thanks for what you do. ❖



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

Settlement of Kindockamack Upon the Hackensack River By BCBS Past President Kevin Wright

When last we met on these pages, I discussed David Demarest Sr.'s settlement on the forested slopes of Kinderkamack in the central Hackensack valley. The nucleus of this colony later became known as Old Bridge to distinguish it from New Bridge downstream. But before we continue our rambles in this neighborhood, let me first jump ahead almost two centuries to explain what became of the name of Old Bridge, which has entirely vanished from use and memory. According to correspondence in the *Bergen County Democrat* on February 11, 1870, the inhabitants of Old Bridge in Bergen County subscribed nearly \$1,300 for the purpose of erecting a train station on the proposed extension of the Hackensack & New York Railroad north to Hillsdale. A name change was in order because application was also made for a new post office, the nearest one then being inconveniently situated in the upstream hamlet of New Milford. As there was already an Old Bridge in Middlesex County, choice of a new name was imperative. Local merchants Peter V. B. Demarest, George Bloomer, and others, who contributed the largest sums to the building fund, proffered the name *River Edge*, but met with resistance from Senator Cornelius S. Cooper, who, though not a resident, was owner of a house and lot in the neighborhood—he instead suggested *Overton*, envisioning a suburban paradise on the heights overlooking the narrow river valley. Other subscribers to the fund put forward the alternative names of *Fair View*, *River View*, and *River Side*, and so the meeting adjourned without consensus.

Making good use of the interval between meetings to advance his preference, grocer Peter V. B. Demarest cleverly divided his

original contribution of \$200 into five-dollar subscriptions, which he assigned to anyone who promised to vote for *River Edge*, even securing proxies from such as could not attend the next meeting. Others who favored his choice of name joined in the scheme. With this stratagem in place, the subscribers reconvened at the district schoolhouse on February 4, 1870, when it was happily agreed that whoever subscribed not less than five dollars should be qualified to vote, but anyone whose subscription was larger than five dollars could only cast one vote. Having adopted this rule, attendees cast ballots as their names were called from the list. As secretly preordained, “a storm of proxies in favor of naming the place *River Edge* snowed under all the others proposed.” Forty-six ballots were cast for *River Edge* when the chairman declared the name unanimously adopted. Abraham J. Demarest, Peter V. B. Demarest, John Henry Zabriskie, George Bloomer and William Blair were then elected to serve on the building committee as residents eagerly watched the Erie Railway Company extend their tracks to New Bridge and beyond, opening rail communication with New York City. To be certain the name stuck, *River Edge* was boldly painted in white letters on the slate roof of the new station.

Even as the name of Old Bridge faded away, far older names still clung to the landscape. So let us pause once more to consider topography and toponymy. Fields of egg-shaped mounds, called drumlins, define the landscape of the middle Hackensack valley above New Bridge. These distinctive whaleback hills of glacial till, overlying bedrock ridges, are usually less than 160 feet in height and less than a mile and a half in length, having one steep end and the other gently tapering. They are often found in parallel

belts or clusters called “swarms,” creating a fluted terrain with small lakes and swamps occupying parallel valleys. This accentuates the rollercoaster landscape with roads, running east-to-west, rising and falling between hillcrest and dale. North of Old Bridge, the Hackensack Golf Club occupies the crest of a drumlin that rises below Bogert Pond in Westwood continuing south to Ridgewood Avenue in Oradell. Ackerman Avenue in Emerson, Soldier Hill Road and Oradell Avenue in Oradell cut across its main axis, while Forest Avenue rides its western slope. Summit Avenue in River Edge and Oradell rides the crest of a drumlin that extends from the bend in Kinderkamack Road at the intersection of New Milford Avenue south to Continental Avenue below Roosevelt School. Fifth Avenue in River Edge marks the axis of yet another egg-shaped mound of glacial till, which extends from just north of Continental Avenue south nearly to St. Peter Academy in River Edge. At the beginning of the eighteenth century, this was “the hill commonly called the Cael Rugh at the road [now Howland Avenue] which leads from the New Bridge to Sluckup.” Kachgel Ruygte derives from kachel (meaning oven) and ruygte (meaning a thicket, bramble-bushes or shavings of wood) and best translates as Oven-Kindling. Westward, Fairview Avenue rides the crest of another drumlin, stretching south of Midland Avenue to Route 4; Spring Valley Avenue in Paramus runs along its eastern base. Eastward, we enter the dell of the Van Saun Mill Brook, which rises on the grounds of the Hackensack Golf Club and drains southward into Cole’s Brook and finally into the Hackensack River at New Bridge. This marshy hollow was anciently known as Sluckup, but changed to the more poetic Spring Valley in 1832. Sluckup has resisted interpretation— it was even humorously suggested (in 1876) that the place earned its name when a cow “slucked up” a farmer’s linen coat from a fence. The Bantas—one of the earliest

families to farm this valley of springs— hailed from Friesland on the North Sea. The Frisian language is Scandinavian in origin, more closely resembling Old English than Dutch. Old Norse had a word, slakki (slack, in English) to describe a small valley or boggy hollow.

Driving eastward along the old Sluckup Road (now Howland Avenue), we cross an innominate brook between Oak Avenue and Cleveland Place in River Edge—site of the Spook Bridge of yore— where the ground again rises to the crest of yet another drumlin, known as Cherry Hill. From reedy marshes only a few feet above sea level along the Hackensack River, Cherry Hill in River Edge reaches 113 feet in elevation, offering a commanding view of the countryside for many miles around. This was originally called Brower’s Hill from the early residence of descendants of Abraham Uldrickse Brower and his wife Elizabeth Ackerman, daughter of David Ackerman and Gerrebraght Romeyn, who lived along Main Street in River Edge. The name changed to Cherry Hill in 1871 with construction of a railroad depot. Most likely, Cherry Hill was a real estate developer’s substitute for the older and more generic name of the Red Hills, long used to describe the sandstone ridge that rises south of Coles Brook and Route 4 in the Fairmount section of Hackensack. Summit Avenue and Boulevard ride its crest southwest through Hackensack and into Hasbrouck Heights.

So, coming full circle, we return to Summit Avenue in River Edge to enjoy the prospect across a white-spined valley to the back slope of the Palisades. As River Edge’s first mayor John G. Webb noted of the vantage from Old Bridge in 1913, “There are numberless suburban places having fine views in one or two directions, but where can such wide and extended



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views in every direction be had as those obtainable from the heights of River Edge. From there portions of five different counties are visible, viz., Bergen (in which it is located), Hudson and Passaic in New Jersey, and Rockland and Westchester in New York. On a fair day the tops of several of the tallest buildings in the city can be plainly seen.” As we have previously noted, this high ground was originally styled Kindockameck. Found in the earliest land records, Kinderkamack was the name given to the footpath that climbed from tidewater at New Bridge to the hilltop in northern River Edge, wending its way northward through Emerson and beyond. The *kinder* in Kinderkamack misleads many into thinking this place name is of Dutch origin, but its earliest renderings approximate *Kindokameck*, which audibly resembles the Algonquian word, *wenhakamike* (also rendered as *linhakamike*), appropriately meaning “upland.” Typically for such loanwords, Dutch speakers reshaped the Indian toponym into the more familiarly intoned *Kinderkamack*. So, for our next adventure, let’s ramble the Kindockameck path from David Demarest Sr.’s settlement at what would become Old Bridge south into the wayside farming neighborhood curiously called *Steenrapie*, but later corrupted into Stony Arabia.

Steen is the Dutch word for “stone,” which prompts some to mistakenly believe this disused toponym to be of Dutch origin. I speculate *Steenrapie* is a corruption of the Algonquian word, *lenacki*, meaning “high ground.” The name was well established when Continental troops “encamped on a high Ridge of land in a place called *Steenrapie*” on September 4, 1780. On September 5, 1780, Benedict Arnold addressed correspondence to Baron von Steuben at his headquarters in *Steenrapie*. General Washington issued orders from “Head Quarters, *Steenrapie*” on September 9, 12, and 17, 1780. Major General Greene issued general orders from *Steenrapie* on September 18, 1780.

A century earlier, *Steenrapie* was not yet distinguished from the ridge top more broadly known as Kindockameck. On May 14, 1686, Governor Lawrie conveyed 260 acres between the Hackensack River and Winocksack (or Sprout) Brook to Daniel River (Ribou, Ravard) of Kindockameck, one of the Huguenot planters who followed David Demarest Sr. into the Hackensack valley. River’s land was bounded north by land of David Demarest and south by land of Albert Saberiscoe (Zabriskie). By modern landmarks, this tract extended from the limits of David Demarest’s tract, that is to say, from the rear of the lots fronting the north side of Continental Avenue and from approximately the point where Williams and Center Avenues in River Edge intersect Maple Place, southwest to Adams Avenue in River Edge. Riverside



Romeyn-Heymer House, also known as the Redstone Tavern before its demolition in 1896.

Way dead-ends at the River Edge DPW compound at the southeast edge of this tract.

Daniel River (Ravard) apparently resided on his 260 acres until at least 1702. In any event, Albert Romeyn acquired the tract before 1719, when he built a stone cottage, known today only from a single photograph taken before 1896. Later called the Redstone Tavern, it stood partly in what is now Tenney Avenue, directly in front of the River Edge Borough Hall. Carved stones were set in the wall on either side of the front door. One was inscribed with the presumed date of construction, 1719, and the initials ARMJR for Albert

Claesen RoMeyn and his wife Jannetie Roelofse Westervelt, who married at Hackensack on April 8, 1709. The other stone was carved with Masonic emblems. The south room included a large fireplace and a narrow stairway into the garret. Ancient bricks from this fireplace were sold as relics for the benefit of the new Congregational Church on Continental Avenue when the old house was torn down in November 1896. An iron fireback in the old Redstone Tavern depicted the story of David and Goliath. On March 9, 1744, Albert Romeyn made his mark (AR) on a road return for what is now Main Street, River Edge, so presumably he was still residing at Steenrapie. As late as July 3, 1766, when David Demarest and his wife Catherine Secor sold forty-seven acres, Albert Romine was listed as the neighboring property owner to the

as a merchant. A son Dirck was baptized at Schraalenburgh (South) Church on January 5, 1783. A daughter Sarah was born to Gabriel Heymer and his wife Elizabeth Man on September 23, 1794 and baptized at Schraalenburgh (South) Church on November 5, 1794.

Gabriel Hayman of New Barbadoes Precinct composed his last will and testament on January 16, 1793, devising his real and personal estate to his wife Elizabeth during her widowhood or until their youngest child reached majority. He bequeathed one cow and an Outset to each of his daughters Regina, Elizabeth, Mary and Sara. After his widow's decease or remarriage, daughters Regina and Catrina were each to receive £50, whereas Elizabeth, Mary and Sara were each to receive £40. Sons Richard and David were each to get one-half of the house and land. Son Gabriel, who was to study Divinity, was to get one acre of farmland adjacent to John Demarest's. Another son, George, was to receive £100. Another son, John, was to receive £50. The house in New York was to be rented out until the youngest child came of age, then the house and movable estate was to be divided amongst the children. Silver spoons, a silver tea tong and an eight-day clock were to be sold among the children.



south—he would have been 80 years old at the time. The Erskine-Watkins Map #113 indicates Gabriel Heymer occupied the former Romeyn dwelling and lot of land at Steenrapie in 1778.

Gabriel Heymer, a young man from Mannheim in southwest Germany, married Regina Brouwerin, a young girl from Waldirin, on April 27, 1760. They were both residing in New York at the time. It is unknown when they moved to this vicinity for no deed of their purchase of the Ravard-Romeyn tract has been found. The list of tax ratables for February 1782 lists Gabriel Heymer

Elizabeth and neighbors Nicase and Isaac Voorhees. Aert Cuyper, Jacob Debaun and Marya Debaun were witnesses. The will was probated May 2, 1795. Daughter Regina Heymer married Benjamin Van Norden at Schraalenburgh South Church on May 24, 1795.

Gabriel's widow, Elizabeth Haymer, must have died about five years after her husband. To comply with Gabriel Heymer's will, the Orphans Court appointed Isaac Nicholls, Lucas Van Buskirk and David Anderson as commissioners to divide the real estate of Gabriel Heymer among his heirs, some being minors at the time.

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The final division, submitted June 8, 1801, literally gave one-half of the house and land to each of the sons Richard and David—the boundary line between Lots #1 and #2 ran “through the middle of the House...to the North post of the Door Yard and Gate...” Lots #1 (fifty acres), #3 (three acres), #4 (four acres) and #8 (ten acres) went to Richard; Lots #2 (fifty-three acres), #5 (four acres) and #7 (ten acres) went to David; Lot #6 comprising one acre on the east side of Steenrapie (Kinderkamack) Road was to be sold.

Benjamin Van Norden and his wife Regina sold their right and interest in the real estate of the late Gabriel Haymer to William Williams on January 19, 1803 for \$100. On February 28, 1806, William Williams paid £400 to Richard Haymer of New Barbadoes Township for a tract of 150 acres, lately belonging to Gabriel Haymer, deceased, being near the Old Bridge on the west side of the Hackensack River, adjacent to land of John (or Joost?) Demarest, all of which was lately in the occupation of Gabriel Heymer, but which descended by his last will and testament to brothers Richard and David Haymer. On March 13, 1806, David Heymer of Bergen sold three tracts to William Williams for \$750. The first tract comprising, 114 acres, extended from the Hackensack River westward to land of Albert R. Romine, being bounded south by land of John Bogert, north partly by lands of Cornelius Bogert and by lands of Albert Zabriskie, while east of Kinderkamack Road, the property was bounded north by lands of John Demarest. The second lot, encompassing eighteen acres, was bounded east, north and west by lands of Roelif and Albert Romine and south by land of Albert Bogert. The third lot was bounded south by land of John Bogert, west by Sprout Brook, and north and east by lands of Albert Romine.

William Williams, of the Precinct of New Barbadoes, wrote his last will and testament on February 4, 1809. It was probated March 20, 1809. Therein, he authorized his executors to dispose of his whole estate,

except for his farm at Steanraupy. If it was necessary to sell any part of the Steanraupy farm, then he authorized them to sell the “part of it called the flacter which lays on the west side of the meadow and the little meadow on the north side of the road to the upland...” He bequeathed the use of his estate to his wife Margaret for her support and that of their children. After her death or remarriage, the residue of his estate was to be divided among their six children: Elisabeth, Maria, Anna, Hester, Robert and Margaret (with Robert receiving two shares and the daughters, one share each). He nominated his wife Margaret, his friend John T. Ackerman, his brother-in-law James Heaton and his brother Samuel Williams to be his executors. Joost Demarest, John Meeker and Sarah Meeker witnessed his will. ❖

1. In September 1871, I. Smith Homans announced his intention to survey his orchard property into building lots in what became known as the Overton section of Oradell, opposite New Milford Depot. It was thought that “the quality of the property and its proximity to the station [would] make it very desirable, and its opening will give the place an impetus which will plainly be seen.”

2. *The Hackensack Republican*, January 30, 1913.

3. The name has changed over time: Slokeup (1774), Slokup (1792), Sluckup (1793), Slockup (1806). Sluckup is possibly related to the words slough and slack water. Its etymology traces from the Middle English, slak, and Old Norse, slakki, referring to a “small valley;” from the Anglo-Saxon slof, referring to a “hollow place;” and from the Middle Low German, slōch, referring to a “swamp.” Sluckup is a muddy hollow or shallow dell with gently sloping sides on the border of Paramus and River Edge, whose name was translated in 1832 into “spring valley.”

4. The surname is also rendered Ribou, Rivard or Ravard.

5. Albert Claesen Romeyn was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1686, the son of Claes Janse Romeyn and Kristyna Albertse Terhune. His date of death is unknown. Their son Nicholas was born near Hackensack in December 1711.

6. These bricks measured 1-½ inches thick, 8 inches long and 3-½ inches wide

Marriages from 1639 to 1801 in the Reformed Dutch Church of New Amsterdam and New York City, Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. IX, (New York, 1940), 202.

New Jersey Archives, First Series Vol. XXXVII, Abstracts of Wills Vol. VIII 1791-1795, 169.

Bergen County Orphans Court Records, Book B, 73.

Bergen County Deed Book Q, 142.

Bergen County Deed Book X, 202.

Bergen County Deed Book X, 251.

Bergen County Will Book A, 245.



BCCHS Collections

by BCCHS Past-President Deborah Powell

As we head into summer we have two projects intertwined with the continuing saga of collections that were stored in Hudson County and damaged in Super Storm Sandy 2012. Having closed out the insurance claim in January we reached out to FEMA for help to conserve items that were not covered nor conserved by volunteers —mostly because of the skills needed to work on these

objects. Many of these objects were stored in the barn which is scheduled to begin a major renovation (Thanks to the Blauvelt-Demaret Foundation!) and the Campbell-Christie House (facilitated by the County of Bergen under our mutual lease agreement) also scheduled for restoration work. We met with FEMA & NJEOM representatives about how to proceed, they seemed very interested in helping us to conserve our star-crossed collections. Inventorying and documenting our entire collection continues.

Trustee Manfred Wegner took measurements to build a new case for the recently returned Hackensack Cigar Store Indian, we hope work can begin soon to protect this restored folk art. We look forward to the Fall exhibit at Morven; *New Jersey Schoolgirl Needlework, 1726-1860*, they requested a photo of the needlework we are lending — Bergen County will be represented. ❖



BCCHS Library

by BCCHS Trustee Lucille Bertram

One of the major assets of the BCCHS is its library. Under wraps in storage for the past few years it looks like the library might, as soon as this summer, be open and active again. There are remarkable treasures in this collection.

To make this re-opening of the library possible the Historical Society will need volunteers from among our members to help with moving, unpacking, sorting, shelving and staffing. In the past the library has been open only one day a week but with a new facility we would like to increase our hours and our presence in the Bergen County community.

To help with expenses related to opening and operating the library we are asking for donations. Mail to BCCHS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661-0055 Attn: Library.

Over the past few years the library has been limited in its ability to answer queries from all and sundry. This will change when we re-open our collection.

To volunteer for library service, please email us at thebchslibrary@gmail.com. ❖



Thank you, Mary!

BCCHS member & HNBLC Commissioner Mary Donohue facilitated BCCHS connecting with BCC.



The Birth of Ridgewood, 1865-1876

By BCHS Trustee Peggy Norris

Ridgewood is named for the wooded ridge on the west side of town--a bland, even uninteresting statement.

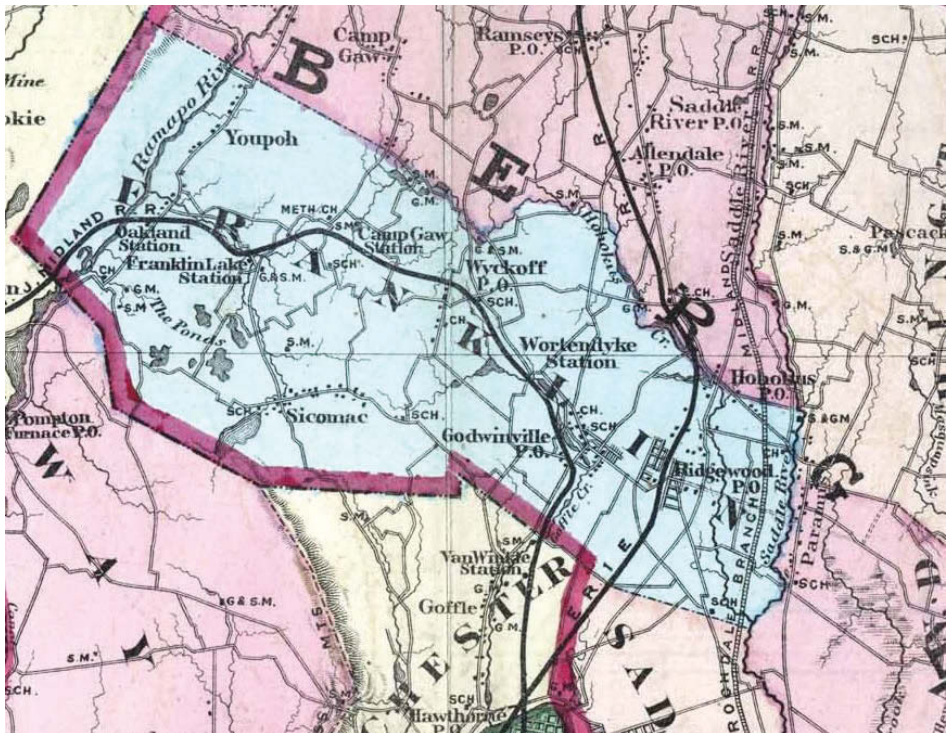
But, how did Ridgewood get a “new” name--one that hadn’t been passed down through the tradition of the early settlers? This saga of political influence and conflict between newcomers and old-timers, is probably similar to other towns with “suburban” names. The story as it comes down to us in our history books can be covered in several sentences. The truth is much more interesting.

The boundaries (and names) of the “civil units” that make up Bergen County, have been changing since the first townships were created in 1693. While county responsibilities included the courts and the registration of deeds, the townships were formed primarily for the

purpose of maintaining roads, providing “poor relief”, supporting (or not) schools, and collecting taxes.*

By 1860 Bergen County consisted of 9 townships, one of which was Franklin, extending from present day Oakland to present day Ridgewood. Although the township was the unit of civil government, people were known by the neighborhoods where they lived. Franklin Township included Ponds (now Oakland), Paramus (now part of Ridgewood and Paramus), Godwinville (now Midland Park) and Sicomac (now part of Wyckoff). The neighborhood of Ridgewood appeared in print for the first time on the 1861 Corey Hopkins map and is marked along Maple Avenue.

Before the advent of the railroad Franklin Township was primarily agricultural with a few industrial mills along the falls of the Hohokus and Goffle



Beers Atlas, 1872 (mapmaker.rutgers.edu)

Brooks. Products of both farmers and manufacturers had to be transported by wagon to waterways and then by boat or barge or sloop to the cities of Paterson, Hackensack, and New York. When the Paterson and Ramapo railroad opened in 1848, it not only provided much more accessible transportation for these products, but also created the possibility of living in the country and commuting to work in New York City. The first to take advantage of that (in what is now Ridgewood) was Captain Samuel Dayton who in 1853 moved, at the age of 70, to the area of Franklin Township that was between Paramus (centered around the Paramus Reformed Church) and Godwinville (present-day Midland Park and the site of more mills) and was soon to be known as Ridgewood. He purchased many acres of land and sold, first to his sons-in-law and then to business acquaintances, large tracts for them to build on and they joined him in becoming the first commuters.

Identity was important to these newcomers. They did not want to be known as living on the outskirts of Godwinville or of Paramus. They wanted their own new identity for the new way of life they were bringing to the area and they wanted the new name to reflect suburban values. The good old names wouldn't do. However, some felt the old names should be spared.

Too much regret cannot be expressed for the loss of the good old names of the towns and villages in this and adjoining counties. Within the past few years since the population of New Jersey has so much increased, the people seem to have had an insane idea that the old names must

be done away with; and as soon as the attractive towns and villages become so popular as to gain some notoriety, their time-honored and characteristic names have been sacrificed, and some fancy one substituted which is often entirely devoid either of beauty or significance. (*Central New Jersey Times* (Plainfield) Dec 28, 1871)

In the days of townships, neighborhoods developed identity by getting their name on post offices and railroad stations. (There still are railway stations named for neighborhoods--for example, Plauderville on the Bergen line, Kingsland on the Main

line, and New Bridge Landing on the Pascack Valley line.) The train station at "Ridgewood" was called the Godwinville Station, because in 1848 that was the closest settled place and the likeliest customer (having



Wortendyke Mill (Ridgewood Public Library)

several mills). However, 15 years later the people who had settled along Maple and E. Ridgewood Avenues wanted their own name on the station. According to lore Cornelia Dayton (Captain Dayton's daughter-in-law) agitated for naming the community Ridgewood, by renaming both the Godwinville post office (located in Godwinville) and the Godwinville station. Initial attempts to do so were interrupted by the Civil War.

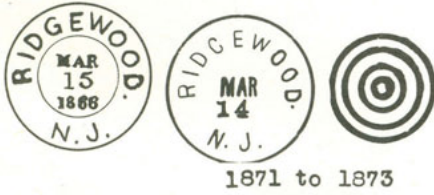
There was conflict between "old-timers" and "newcomers" and between Democrats and Republicans. The Jersey Dutch had occupied the area for a century and a half. The commuters were upstarts (having been there less than 15 years) and people with vastly different expectations of community life. The Jersey Dutch were hardy and independent, needing only a blacksmith shop, a store, and

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a church. The newcomers however wanted “culture” in the form of suburban improvements. The commuters, by and large, were Republicans (the more liberal party and the party that was determined to keep the Union) and the long-time residents were primarily Democrats (the more conservative and conciliatory party). Many of the manufacturers, as well as some of the commuters, were in businesses dependent on the South and slavery in some way, primarily through dependence on cotton.

When Lincoln was inaugurated and the Republicans took control of the federal government, and thus of post office patronage, the Ridgewood-ites were ready to “make their move.” But with the War imminent, B. F. Robinson and others decided that keeping Democrat John B. Wortendyke postmaster of Godwinville would “neutralize his political action.” The uneasy truce remained throughout

(Perry. Postal History of Bergen County)



the war. However, in 1865, with the war winding down, they first applied to the Erie to rename the station from Godwinville to Ridgewood. The Erie demurred and suggested that they apply to the Post Office first. They did so, through their political contacts and the “Ridgewood” Post Office was established March 30, 1865 and B. F. Robinson was

appointed Postmaster on April 3, 1865. A few months later on 13 September 1865 the Godwinville post office was discontinued leaving Godwinville residents and manufacturers without a post office. Now their mail would be delivered to Ridgewood. The local Democratic newspaper reported:

“Within a week or two there have been several changes made in the Post offices on this County, by way of gratifying a few exceedingly mean individuals of very small caliber and exceedingly insignificant



C. A. Wortendyke

Cornelius A. Wortendyke (Midland Park through the Years)

natures.” (*Bergen County Democrat* 9/20/1865)

This was a neighborhood war. Through means that are not clear, but undoubtedly involved much political maneuvering, the Godwinville Post Office, with Abraham C. Wortendyke as postmaster, was reinstated on August 25, 1866 and 2 days later the Ridgewood Post Office was discontinued. Tit for tat.

Although the story passed down in Ridgewood’s history is that Robinson, the Ridgewood postmaster, lost his job because he had other government employment, it appears that the truth is the reverse. Robinson was appointed assessor for the Fourth District of New Jersey in March of 1867, after he lost

the postmaster position because the Ridgewood Post Office was closed. (*New York Evening Express*, 3/27/1867) This was apparently another patronage job and Robinson seems to have had sufficiently powerful patrons to keep him employed!

Once the Post office was named Ridgewood in 1865 (although the complete story had not yet played out) The Ridgewoodites pushed to also change name of the railroad station from Godwinville to Ridgewood. The President of the Board of Directors of the Erie Railway Company had verbally approved the change, but it still was not happening, so a committee of Ridgewood commuters (Samuel Graydon, James Keeley, A J. Cameron, E. A. Walton, and F. Kidder) drew up a petition and wrote out a statement of their reasons for requesting the change and presented both to the President and the Board of Directors of the Erie in April of 1866.

According to them Wortendyke claimed that he was responsible for the establishment of the Depot (which had been constructed by the residents on private land in 1859), was chief contributor and promoter of the depot buildings, and 7/8 of the freight was paid by him. Therefore, he felt entitled to pick the name of the station and he wanted it to remain Godwinville.

The committee of Ridgewoodites declared that one of them, Captain Dayton, owned the land that the Depot was on, that Robinson had organized and managed the money raised for the depot, and that the Wortendykes only paid 4.5% of the receipts of the agent. (Note that both statements regarding receipts of the Erie are probably true--that the Wortendykes paid 7/8 of the income from freight, but that the commuters paid over 90% of the total receipts.) Finally the passenger traffic came primarily from Ridgewood.

The balance of power had shifted in favor of the commuters and Captain Dayton was essentially holding the deed to the depot and surrounding land hostage--contingent on changing the name of the

station. Sometime in 1866, the name of the station was officially changed to Ridgewood. C. Shuart, who was station agent and a local developer, advertised rooms to let at the Ridgewood station in May of 1866. (*New York Herald*, 5/15/1866)

The story wasn't over as far as the Wortendykes were concerned. In order to get their own station, they built their own railroad (running from Paterson to Pompton), established a station in Godwinville, and named it Wortendyke. Godwinville (still a part of Franklin Township) was renamed Midland Park in 1872. In a final coup de grâce, the Godwinville Post Office, now coexisting with the Ridgewood post office, was



B. F. Robinson (Ridgewood Public Library)

renamed Wortendyke in 1873. So much for the grand old name of Godwinville.

To complete the post office saga, on July 19, 1867 the Ridgewood Post office was reestablished with the appointment of Garret G. Van Dien whose store was near the Ridgewood station. (B. F. Robinson was now otherwise employed

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as a government assessor and so couldn't resume his post.) With the station and the post office successfully named Ridgewood, there was one more step to complete Ridgewood's identity. They needed to become their own civil unit, controlling their own taxes.

The first movement to form a separate Ridgewood Township out of Franklin Township was reported in the February of 1873 (*New Jersey Citizen* 2/21/1873) Unable to garner enough support, in fact being soundly rebuffed by Republicans and Democrats alike in the western part of the Township, the bill was withdrawn from the State Assembly.

Ridgewood grew very rapidly and continued to make demands upon the Franklin Township taxes for better roads and better schools. In 1875 the movement for a separate township was revived and the *Bergen County Democrat* reported on 12/24/1875: "The project to divide the township of Franklin gives general satisfaction, and it is hoped that the bill will be passed this winter without further delay....This division will be of immense advantage to both townships, separating as it does the agricultural and county lands, from the village and improved property, the interests and desires of the one being diametrically opposed to the other."

Basically it was inequitable that the frugal farmers be taxed for improvements in Ridgewood that they did not want or need--including improved and additional

roads and bridges. Despite protests of those who wanted to see the deep pockets of the Ridgewood-ites stay in Franklin Township, formal application for a township was made to the legislature in February of 1876 (*Bergen County Democrat* 2/11/1876) and signed by E. A. Walton, B. F. Robinson, and Whitman Phillips--all principals in the earlier



Walker Atlas, 1876 (Ridgewood Public Library)

Post Office and station movements. The Township was formally established by the Legislature on March 30, 1876. The annual Town meeting of citizens, held the 2nd Monday in April (April 10) elected officers, including a Town Committee, of five. Under the Township Act of 1798 (amended in 1846), the Township committee supervised expenditures of taxes between town meetings, but the business of the township was conducted by the people at the Annual meetings. These could be so contentious that there was a section of the general township act which must be read aloud describing the procedures for handling disorderly conduct. Other officers elected included Freeholder Garret G. Van Dien and Pound

Keepers, Peter J. Hopper and Garret I. Hopper. The Township Committee of five chose Albert P. Hopper as chair to run the town meeting. Ironically, after a struggle by the “merchant princes of Gotham” who had settled in Ridgewood and fought for the post office, the station, and the township, those elected were overwhelmingly from the old Dutch families. However, Ridgewood was one step closer to becoming a suburb and had firmly established its identity as a separate village and an independent unit of government. ❖

* For more information on the boundaries of counties and townships, boroughs, cities, etc. see Snyder, *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries* or “Bergen County's Townships and Municipalities” compiled by Arnold Lang (<http://njgsbc.org/files/bc-maps/bergenhistory.pdf>).

1 Postmasters in Bergen County, compiled from *Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832 - September 30, 1971* and Harold D Perry's “A Postal History of Bergen County” <http://njgsbc.org/indexes/postmasters>

Letter. To the President and Directors of the Erie Railway Company. From Samuel Graydon, James Keeley, A. J. Cameron, E. A. Walton, and F. Kidder. Ridgewood, N.J. April 23, 1866. Bolger Heritage Center Archives. Ridgewood Public Library

Letter. To William K. Strong. From Alexander W. Randall, First Assistant Postmaster General. April 3, 1865. Bolger Heritage Center Archives. Ridgewood Public Library

Petition. To Hon. Wm. Denison, Postmaster General. No date. (ca. 1865) Bolger Heritage Center Archives. Ridgewood Public Library

A History of Municipal Government in New Jersey Since 1798. Albert J. Wolfe, 1990.

In December 2013, a special By-Laws Committee was established by President Jim Smith to review the Society's by-laws, to identify any inconsistencies or anachronisms, and to suggest any modifications deemed necessary to facilitate the administration of the Society in the twenty-first century. All suggested changes were reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees at its April 2014 meeting, and per the present by-laws, are being submitted to the membership in this newsletter prior to the general meeting and vote on June 22. See pages 16 – 18.

In Memoriam



It is with sadness that the Bergen County Historical Society marks the unexpected passing last November 26 of a dedicated volunteer, Frank D. Cherubino of New Milford. Many of you will remember Frank as an enthusiastic docent in the Demarest House, his favorite spot at New Bridge; he was also a musician, graphic artist, model builder, storyteller, and proud Vietnam veteran. His friends and colleagues at BCHS continue to miss him and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Important: If you are not receiving BCHS email blasts and would like to please email me at contactBCHS@bergencountyhistory.org. Email is an inexpensive way of sending event notices and keeping membership updated with the latest and greatest info.

RENEW TODAY • WE VALUE MEMBERSHIP

Bergen County Historical Society
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www.bergencountyhistory.org

Deborah Powell & Kevin Wright,
editors & layout

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

BERGEN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this corporation shall be the Bergen County Historical Society ("the Society").

ARTICLE II

OBJECT

RESOLVED: That the Third Section of the Certificate of Incorporation of this Society made February 15, 1907, stating the purpose of the Society be, and it hereby is, amended to read as follows: "Third: The object of the Society shall be to collect and preserve data and objects having historical significance, and papers and documents incidental to the civil, political, military and general history of the United States of America, particularly of Bergen County and its adjoining areas; the collection of genealogical, biographical and topographical information; the dissemination of sound historical data; the encouragement of patriotic sentiment; and the production and distribution of historical materials for education, with emphasis on stimulating interest in the history of our region."

ARTICLE III

MEMBERS

1. Any person interested in the object of the Society shall be eligible for membership.
2. Membership categories and dues shall be determined by the Membership Committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees.
3. Applications for membership, accompanied by the annual dues, shall be sent to the Membership Chairperson. He/She shall present all applications to the Board of Trustees for registration. The applicant does not become a voting member of the Society until he/she is officially registered by the Board of Trustees.
4. Annual membership renewal notices shall be sent at least thirty days prior to membership expiration dates. Membership expires at the end of the month one year after the registration date. Continued membership is contingent upon payment of membership dues.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and there shall be twelve elected Trustees. The Officers and Trustees shall perform the duties prescribed by these By-Laws and by Parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.
2. The Nominating Committee shall be appointed no less than three months prior to the election; it shall present the slate to the Board of Trustees at least a week prior to the election and Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held between the middle of May and the middle of July as determined by the Officers and Trustees.
3. The President shall be elected for a term of one year and shall be eligible to serve for two more consecutive terms. The President shall preside at all meetings at the Society, the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee and Special Meetings. The President shall appoint the committee chairpersons, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees, and shall approve the members of all committees. All committee appointments made by the President shall be for a term of one year. Committee members shall be eligible for reappointment. The President shall enforce the By-Laws, and perform such duties as are incident to the office or designated by the Board of Trustees. He/She shall be a member ex-officio of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall report for his/her administration at the Annual Meeting of the Society.
4. Vice Presidents shall be elected for terms of two years and shall be eligible for re-election. Vice Presidential elections shall be conducted at the Annual Meeting. The Vice Presidents, in order of seniority in office, shall perform the duties of the President during the absence, inability to serve, or at the request of such officer, and shall perform such other duties as the President may assign.
5. The Secretary shall be elected for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to maintain accurate records of the proceedings of the Society and the Board of Trustees, to conduct the official correspondence, preserve all books, documents, and correspondence, and to perform such other duties as may be incident to the office.
6. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election. The Treasurer shall receive all funds of the Society and deposit same in the name of the Society in one or more depositories selected by the Board of Trustees. He/She shall submit an audited financial report at the Annual Meeting of the Society. The fiscal year shall be from the first day of July of each year to the thirtieth day of June, inclusive. The Treasurer shall disburse all monies by check or electronically and may make payments authorized within the budget and other disbursements as authorized by the Board of Trustees. In the absence of the Treasurer,

the President or a Vice President shall be responsible for said disbursements.

7. The President may appoint an auditor or Auditing Committee to examine the records of the Treasurer and report at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V

MEETINGS

1. No fewer than five regular meetings of the Society shall be held annually, at which appropriate programs shall be presented.
2. The regular meeting of the Society held between the middle of May and the middle of July shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing Officers, receiving reports of Officers and Committees and such other business that may arise.
3. Special meetings of the Society may be called by the President and must be called on petition by twenty-five members, in writing, addressed to the Secretary.
4. At all regular meetings and at all special meetings properly called, twenty-five members of the Society shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VI

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1. The Officers, Trustees, Past Presidents, Trustees Emeritus, and the appointed chairpersons of the standing committees shall constitute the Board of Trustees. Only Officers, Trustees, and Past Presidents shall have the privilege of making motions and voting. Trustees Emeritus, that is, former trustees recognized for distinguished service, do not have a vote at meetings of the Board of Trustees, but have the same voting privilege at membership meetings as other members.
2. Trustees, except those appointed or elected to fill the unexpired portion of a term, shall serve for a term of three years. Trustees elected for a full term of three years may be reelected for one consecutive term. Four full-term Trustees shall be elected at each Annual Meeting. A vacancy occurring in any office, or on the Board of a Trustees, shall be filled as follows:
 - (a) In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the First Vice President shall so serve until the next Annual Meeting.
 - (b) In the event of a vacancy in the offices of First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and/or Treasurer, the Trustees shall have the power to fill vacancies until the next Annual Meeting.
 - (c) In the event of a vacancy on the Board of Trustees, the Trustees shall have the power to fill vacancies until the next Annual Meeting.
3. The Board of Trustees shall have supervision of the affairs of the Society between its meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Society, and shall perform such other duties as specified in these By-Laws.
4. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held monthly. Seven members shall constitute a quorum.
5. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees may be called by the President and shall be called upon the written request of three members of the Board of Trustees submitted to the Secretary. Except in cases of emergency, three days notice shall be given.

ARTICLE VII

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the President, the two Vice Presidents, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Committee shall be informed on all business which is to be presented to the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, and be empowered to transact between Board meetings the business of the Society, to act in emergencies which do not affect the policies of the Society or entail expenditures of money. It shall report at the regular meetings of the Board of Trustees and make recommendations requiring action or approval.
2. The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President. Four members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. Chairpersons of Standing Committees, shall be appointed by the President, subject to the approval of the Board of Trustees.
2. There shall be the following Standing Committees, each of which shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members:
 - (a) Building and Grounds Committee shall formulate plans for present care and future development of the buildings and grounds and will make recommendations to the Executive Committee of any plans before putting them in action.

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(b) Finance Committee, composed of the Treasurer and four members, shall prepare a budget for the fiscal year and submit it to the Board of Trustees at their regular meeting in June.

(c) Library Committee shall acquire, receive, catalogue, preserve, and make available to the public all publications, books, manuscripts, miscellaneous papers, and other written or printed data belonging to the Society, except material owned by the Society for resale.

(d) Membership Committee shall prepare and activate a continuous campaign for securing new members, maintain membership records, and propose membership policies for approval by the Board of Trustees.

(e) Museum Collections Committee shall acquire, receive, catalogue, preserve and exhibit the properties of the Society.

(f) Programming and Events Committee shall plan programs for presentation at each regular meeting of the Society with the oversight of the Board of Trustees.

(g) Publicity and Public Relations Committee shall disseminate information relative to the Society and its activities through the print, radio, television, and electronic media.

(h) Historic Preservation Committee shall prepare and activate an ongoing preservation campaign, develop and maintain materials and presentations relevant to historic preservation, and oversee the Society's Blue Marker Program.

(i) Publications Committee shall promote historical research and publication and prepare and distribute the Society's newsletter.

(j) Fundraising Committee shall raise monies to further the purposes of the Society.

3. The President shall have the power to create, combine, continue or discontinue, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, standing committees.

4. Committee meetings may be called by the Committee Chairperson or by the President when deemed necessary.

ARTICLE IX

RESERVE FUND

The Reserve Fund will be established for the operation of site maintenance and will be handled as follows:

1. Withdrawal of the entire principal would need two-thirds vote of members at the Annual Meeting.
2. Fifteen percent of the principal could be released by unanimous vote of the Trustees, for emergency purposes.
3. Ninety percent of the interest would be available, in one year, for site operation that the Trustees specify. The other ten percent of the interest would be added to the principal.
4. The Trustees could add to the principal every year in the amount that they choose.

ARTICLE X

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE XI

AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These By-Laws may be amended, after approval by the Board of Trustees, at the Annual Meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing (hard copy and/or electronically) to the membership not more than sixty days nor less than ten days prior to the meeting. The Society shall preserve a copy of each version of the By-laws as approved by the membership.

ARTICLE XII

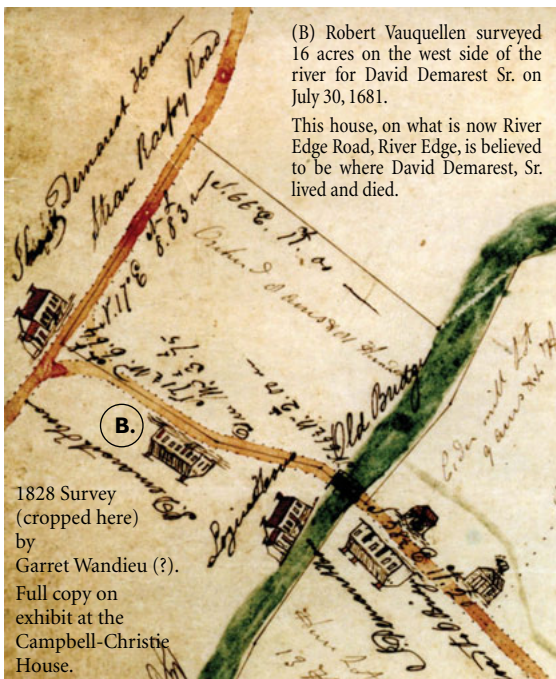
DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

Upon the legal dissolution of the Society, the Trustees in Dissolution shall, after discharging all the obligations and liabilities of the Society, convey all remaining property to such one or more organizations operated exclusively for education purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding Federal Law then in force) as the Trustees shall determine. Any remaining property shall be disposed of by the New Jersey Superior Court, sitting in and for Bergen County, to such organization as the Court shall determine, operated exclusively for purposes related to local history.

ARTICLE XIII

Homage and a debt of gratitude is hereby paid to the Founders and to the Incorporators of this Society, who founded the same in 1902 and originally incorporated it on March 28, 1907, as a non-profit, educational organization. ❖

ERRATA Tim Adriance has kindly pointed out an error in my previous post on the Demarest family, wherein I wrote: “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.” The confusion over David Demarest Sr. and a grandson of the same name arose from two transcriptions of the church records in my research files. One reads: “5 Apr 1696 came to us with letters from the French Church the following/David Demaree/son Jan with his [second] wife Merretje Jacobse VanWinkle [widow of Pieter Jansen Slot]/[Jan’s daughter] Mary DeMaree, wife of Jacobus Slot/Jan Dury [Durie] and his wife Rachel Cresson [remarried widow of David Demarest Jr.]/David, son of David [Demarest Jr.], also from New York.” On this same date, April 5, 1696, Antje Slot married David Demarest, son of Jan Demarest and his first wife Jocomina Dreuns De Ruine. I



(B) Robert Vauquellen surveyed 16 acres on the west side of the river for David Demarest Sr. on July 30, 1681.

This house, on what is now River Edge Road, River Edge, is believed to be where David Demarest, Sr. lived and died.

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

I copied another transcript of the same church record, which reads: “5 April 1696 with letters from the French Church: David De Mare, s/o Jan, and wife Antie Slote/Maretie Jacobse Van Winkel, wife of Jan De Mare/1696 by confession: Mary De Maree, wife of Jacobus Slot/10 July 1696 with letters from New York: Jan De Mare/Jan Dury and wife Rachel Cresson/David De Maree Jr., son of David from New York/Jacob De Groot and wife Gretie Jans.” Since Jan Demarest’s son David was married on the same date (April 5, 1696), it is most likely he and not his grandfather who joined the Reformed Church in Hackensack, David Demarest Sr. being either too elderly or possibly deceased by this time. It is equally noteworthy in this second transcription that Jan Demarest, Jan Durie and his wife Rachel Cresson, David Demarest Jr. (son of deceased David Demarest Jr. and Rachel Cresson) from New York, and Jacob De Groot and his wife Gretie Jans, joined with letters from New York, most likely referring to the French Reformed congregation established by Rev. Pierre Daille in the Dutch Reformed Church on Manhattan, which David Demarest Sr. joined in 1682. — Kevin Wright ❖



Scene from War of Outposts, 2014

This past year also saw the Society move its lecture series from Hackensack to New Bridge Landing. We are thankful for the years of support from the church in Hackensack, but we are also excited to new lectures and another event that opens the Steuben House to the public. Society members have also worked very hard over the past year to find a new home for our storied library collection. While negotiations continue at this moment, I want the membership to know we are doing everything in our power to reopen this important component of the Bergen County Historical Society.

While a lot has happened over this past year, and we continue to learn from these experiences and grow our organization, I cannot stress enough that all of our

accomplishments, many which cannot even be listed here, could not have been done were it not for the countless hours that have been put in by Bergen County Historical Society members. Last year when I took office, I said this was not my Society or the work of one individual, but it is through all of our efforts that we are able to be successful. For the upcoming year, I want our organization to continue to build on this success. We continue to move forward in our pursuit of building a first rate museum and we will build upon our historic preservation efforts. I thank you for your continued support of the Bergen County Historical Society and look forward to the year ahead.

James Smith, BCHS President ❖

Annual Meeting, Awards and Elections

Luncheon at the Ho-Ho-Kus Inn on June 22, 2014 • 1:00 – 3:00 PM • \$49 per person

The Bergen County Historical Society invites its members and special guests to the Society's Annual Meeting, June 22nd from 1 - 3 PM at the historic Ho-Ho-Kus Inn, located at the intersection of Maple Ave. and the Franklin Turnpike in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. The menu will focus on the Inn's traditional brunch fare including locally sourced and seasonally sustainable ingredients. By reservation.



Mail check to BCHS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661 • PayPal available on BCHS website. ❖



Bergen 350 Gala • October 15, 2014

The Bergen County Historical Society will celebrate New Jersey's 350th anniversary with a Gala reception and dinner on Wednesday evening, October 15 at The Venetian in Garfield. The event will feature the first Bergen County Legends Awards, which will recognize outstanding individuals whose celebrity or achievements make them "legendary" in the county's history.

The Bergen 350 Committee, formed to plan BCHS sesquicentennial festivities, will announce details of the gala, awards, and related activities in coming months. Proceeds will benefit the proposed museum building and library to be built at Historic New Bridge Landing. Visit bergen350.com for more information. ❖