



Turkey Tracks

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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MARTHA WASHINGTON COMES TO NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 11 APRIL 2013

Our speaker for the Annual Dinner Meeting, Annette Winter, will appear in costume as Martha Washington. Ms. Winters will capture her audience with her stories of Colonial social life, schooling, young widowhood and remarriage. She also describes living through the turbulence and anguish of the Revolutionary War with England, and the birth of the new nation.

The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a Cash Bar followed by the Berkeley Plaza's Grand Buffet at 7:00 p.m. The Cost is \$32.00 per person. To sign up please use the enclosed form. We will be voting on the proposed slate of Trustees for the coming years as listed below. Plan to join us for our Annual Dinner Meeting and other upcoming events. Please put the date on the calendar right now and send your check to Earle Pearson, Dinner Coordinator, at the New Providence Historical Society's address - 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. For any further information, please contact Earle at (908) 340-5906 or John Bale at (908) 665-1065.

Proposed Trustees - Class of 2013 - John Bale - Linda Kale - Carol Smith

President's Letter

Our presenter for the Annual Dinner Meeting, Annette Winter has a varied theatrical background. She has appeared on Broadway in the Prince of Grand Street, she has worked on cruise ships appearing in such productions as South Pacific, as Bloody Mary, Mrs. Higgins in My Fair Lady and a telephone repair person in Barefoot in the Park. Her regional credits are Cabaret, Nonsense, The Music Man, Follies, Once Upon a Mattress, Fiddler on the Roof and many others. Annette has trained at Boston University's School of Theatre Arts and La Salle College of Musical Theatre. We are looking forward to her performance on April 11th.

Betty Newell, a long time volunteer and our Vice President for twelve years, is moving to Scottsdale, Arizona to be close to her daughter. She and her husband were founding members of the Society which began in 1966. She volunteered at the Mason Room on Thursdays since the room was opened in 1995. Prior to the Mason Room opening, she was one of the original volunteers who worked at the Saltbox Museum when the Society had its archives there. Betty was a great help to people doing research on their family tree as she shared their love of genealogy. She had ancestors who were early settlers here in New Providence.

Linda Kale has taken on the jobs of Vice President and Publicist. She has arranged, in conjunction with the New Providence Seniors, a trip to the New Jersey Police Museum in Trenton on April 18th. The Museum has a large holding of material pertaining to the Lindbergh Trial. The trip will include a visit to the Flemington Court House where the trial took place in 1932. She has taken on the job of getting the face of the society out to the public and has been active in recruiting new members. As part of this program, we are requesting that when sending in your dues and/or money for our annual dinner, that you supply your Email address. This will help bring the society into the 21st century and will enable us to contact you on a timely basis of any events that the society will be having or participating in.

On November 11, 2012, The New York Times wrote a piece entitled The Town That 'Grows With You.' The article was about New Providence and was a very nice piece telling of the virtues of our town. The one glaring error in the article said that when it came to the history of New Providence, Ms. Capuzzo, the author of the article, said that when the town was founded it was called Turkey Town because of the Wild Turkeys. The official name was "Turkey" not "Turkey Town" and it remained the official name until 1809 when the name was officially changed to New Providence.

The Society will be having its Annual Lawn Sale on May 4, with a rain date of May 11. We are looking for donations for our Treasure Table. New and like-New items, Antiques, Tools, Jewelry, Pocket Books, Biographies, Histories. We have found in the past that certain items don't sell, like text books and children's toys. The society continues to need people to act as docents for us to be able to have our museum open to the public on the third Sunday of the month, from April to November. We were trying to have it open two Sundays a month, but lacking the volunteers we have cut it back to once a month.

John Bale
President

The Evergreen Hotel

The Hotel was located at 15 Southgate Road (formerly called the circle) and was taken down as part of the Foley Square at Murray Hill. The building was originally located on Floral Avenue which we learned from an interview in 1974 with Grace Carrel Boise, who was living in the house at the time. Her father, Frederick Carrel, bought the building which was the former Crane Brothers Feed Mill. It was located to the left of the building where Bantam Press was located at 43 Floral Avenue. Mr. Carrel moved the building to its location on Southgate Road where he opened a tavern and called it the Evergreen Hotel in 1898. A picture of the hotel in it's glory days is on page 17 of our book, "Images of America NEW PROVIDENCE." The tavern closed after Grace's father, Frederick Carrel, had some trouble with the town. People in town wanted to close him up and eventually he did close. He fixed the building up and rented it. During that time Mrs. Boise lived in the corner house at South Street and Southgate Road. After her father died, her family moved into the hotel to live. Mrs. Boise's mother had boarders in both houses. Many of the men who came to build the Coddington greenhouses boarded in these two homes. Mrs. Carrel had as many as eleven to twelve roomers at a time between the two houses.

A question has been raised by several people as to whether the Evergreen Hotel had a jail cell. The Society had no records of this and it was not mentioned in the interview with Mrs. Boise. The Society contacted Mr. Howard Weinerman of MWRE Inc., the owners of the property, to ask if they would permit the society to look in the basement of the Hotel before it was demolished. Mr. Pat Anelli and Mr. Rick Anderson of the Society visited the Hotel and searched the basement to validate this story. No cell was found, but it was found that all the windows in the basement were barred. They also found a strange room that was oval in shape with strange piping that was only in that area. These pipes were not connected to any other pipes outside of that room. They could not actually say that it was a cell, but it was a very strange room. The mystery still exists.



Annual Spring Lawn Sale

Saturday, May 4, 2013

The Annual Spring Craft and Collectibles Sale is scheduled for May 4th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with May 11th as the rain date. If you are interested in renting space at \$20.00 per 8 foot table or know of someone who is, please call John Bale at (908) 665-1065. Please call John Bale to arrange for a drop off time for all items to be donated for our Society's "Treasure Tables." We would appreciate having these items by April 29th so they can be priced in time for the Sale. Once again, we need and request your support.

Please mark your calendar for baking, pricing, selling, set-up, clean-up and hosting at the Salt Box Museum. Even one hour will be helpful and appreciated.

Membership Renewal Application

Our annual dues run from April 1st to March 31st, our fiscal year. Please fill in the requested information and mail your check to Margaret Maurer's attention at the Memorial Library address, New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. This will enable us to keep our membership and mailing lists current.

Be sure to include your preference for Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. and Mrs.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Membership ** many corporations will match contributions.

Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Contribution \$30.00 _____ Sustaining \$50.00 _____ Life \$125 _____

I will volunteer to help:

Computer _____ Research _____ Museum _____ Lawn Sale _____ Writing _____

Clerical _____ Grounds _____ Restoration _____ House Tours _____

Dinner Reservations...

April 11, 2013 Berkeley Plaza 6:00 p.m.

Number of reservations _____ @\$32.00 for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner, April 11th

Amount of Check \$ _____. Please make check payable to NP Historical Society and use the enclosed envelope.

Reservations must be received by April 9th. Check for dinner and membership may be combined.

Necrology

Harry Newell

Harry had lived in New Providence for the past 59 years. He was a veteran of the Navy during the Second World War. He worked as a Product Manager for Pyrotronics Co., and FyerFiter Co. Harry was the Chairman of moving the Old Genung Home to its current site at 1350 Springfield Avenue in New Providence. It was formerly located at 1351 Springfield Avenue. As part of this move it was he who had a basement constructed so that the house could be set on it. Part of the problem was the Genung House did not have a basement in its former location. Harry and his wife Betty have been Founding Members of the New Providence Historical Society. Harry's father was the Mayor of Bloomfield, NJ, during the 1930's and 1940's.

Douglas Smith

Doug, who was a former Vice President of the New Providence Historical Society, died in October 2012. He formerly lived in the Ethan Corey House, located at 1539 Springfield Ave. This is one of the oldest homes in New Providence. Doug was a plastics engineer. He made the Corey House his lifelong project. He did much of the work himself making closets, adding plumbing and bathrooms and doing electrical wiring. He was an antique tool collector and loved wood working.

Clifford Hebbeler

Cliff was a long time supporter and member of the Society. He was a Navy veteran having served in the Seabees in New Guinea. His Battalion was selected to complete the construction of General MacArthur's home, whose headquarters were located in Hollandia, New Guinea. Cliff was Assistant Director of the NY District Federal Home Loan Bank Board. He was a Shriner and participated in many of their musical events.

Changing Face of New Providence

Village Shopping Center:

Village Pet Center has closed due to retirement. It was located in the former R.S.V.P shop.

Healthy Bones Sports Center for Dogs closed. It was located in the former home of Toys That Teach.

Springfield Avenue:

China Bistro, formerly China Fan, has opened a restaurant in a portion of the old Magrath and Friedman Hardware Stores.

Chens Restaurant has closed. It was located in the former home of Burger Express, Burger King and Dascoll Pharmacy.

E-Z Cash for Gold opened in the former home of Grammarie (a Coffee Shop), Liberty Tax Service, CoCoNail, Rosa/Sal Pizzeria and Midge Pizzeria.

J. E. M. Automotive and **Car Wash** has closed due to death of the owner. This is located in the Exxon Gas Station, but gas station remains open.

New Providence Historical Society Officers, Board Members & Committees

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President | John Bale |
| Vice President | Linda Kale |
| Corresponding Secretary | Carol Smith |
| Recording Secretary | Marion Bale |
| Treasurer | Gail Souren |
| Publicity | Linda Kale |
| Displays | Sara Jane Regan |
| | Ann Powers |
| | Barbara Pape |
| Mason Room Volunteer | Ruth Nitti |
| Dinner Coordinator | Earle Pearson |
| Grounds & Property | Rick Anderson |
| Membership | Margaret Maurer |
| Members at Large | Patrick Anelli |
| | Barbara Pape |
| Turkey Tracks | John & Marion Bale |



Museum Hours
 March to November
 Third Sundays
 By appointment
 Telephone: 908-665-1034

Mason Room Hours
 Tuesday Mornings, 10 to Noon
 Thursdays, by appointment
 Telephone: 908-665-1034



*New Providence Historical Society
 Memorial Library
 377 Elkwood Avenue
 New Providence, New Jersey 07974*