



# Turkey Tracks

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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October 2014

## “Underground Railroad in New Jersey”

At the Society’s Annual Meeting on October 23rd, we will be treated to a talk by Janet Stafford on the Underground Railroad in New Jersey. Ms. Stafford will share with us who participated, the consequences of taking part, how escaped slaves moved north, and where the Underground Railroad operated in New Jersey.



The publication of Ms. Stafford’s historical novel, *Saint Maggie*, led to the creation of a series by the same name. Her second book, *Walk by Faith*, was published in 2013. Her third novel, provisionally titled *After the Storm*, will be published this October.



The Society will hold its annual meeting at the DeCorso Community Center (formerly known as the New Providence Senior Citizen’s Center) at 15 East 4th Street. At 7:00 p.m., there will be a brief meeting to conduct society business. At 7:30, Janet Stafford will speak. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

# President's Letter

We've had a great deal of activity at the New Providence Historical Society this year. In April, we sponsored a trip to Trenton. We visited the Old Barracks where General George Washington and his army turned the tide in the Revolutionary War. After a wonderful lunch at Café Antonio's in Pennsylvania, we went over to the State House, where we met up with Governor Chris Christie and Representative Jon Bramnick. Al Morgan of New Providence, now Sergeant-at-Arms of the General Assembly, gave us a personal tour of the General Assembly Room.

The Society also hosted the New Providence Business and Professional Association meeting on September 25th. We gave a brief talk about the Society and gave a tour of the Mason Room to introduce the members of the business community to the workings of the Historical Society.

We have also been making great strides moving into the 21st century. We'd like to thank John Everett, President of EverTech Corporation, for assisting us in assessing our computer needs for the future. Also, a huge thank you to the New Providence Lions Club for moving us closer to our goal of archiving all of our photos, documents, articles, and other memorabilia.

Also coming up, on October 18th & 19th, is 2014 Four Centuries in a Weekend Historic Sites Tour of Union County: "Where New Jersey History Began." All the museums in Union County will be open to visitors both Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Noon - 5:00 p.m.

On October 23rd, the Society will hold its annual meeting at the DeCorso Community Center (formerly known as the New Providence Senior Citizen's Center). At 7:00 p.m., we will have a brief meeting. At 7:30, Janet Stafford will speak about the Underground Railroad in New Jersey. Learn who participated, the consequences of taking part, how escaped slaves moved north, and where the underground railroad operated in New Jersey. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

In December, we will be having our Holiday Open House. Please check the website for date and details.

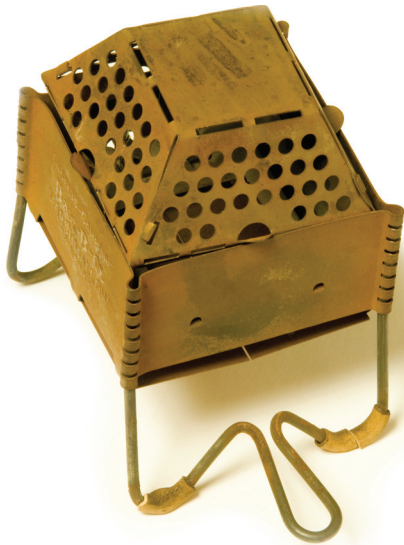
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Kale".

Linda Kale  
President

# The Docent's Challenge

How well do you know your town history? Just to test your memory, we've set our second "Docent's Challenge."

We usually delve into the ancient past, but for this challenge, we have something a bit more recent, but still during the last century. In this issue, we have a photograph of three fine young football players. Can you identify the year, the event or the players? You might find some clues in the New Providence Public Library. You might even know one or more of them personally.



Any ideas? You might find some additional clues on the Docent's Challenge page at [www.newprovidencehistorical.com](http://www.newprovidencehistorical.com). You can even post your guesses.

## Our Last Challenge Solved

Now, what about the subject (pictured to the left) of the last Docent's Challenge? Did you guess it was an electric marshmallow toaster? It's true. You can examine this unusual artifact for yourself in the back room of the Salt Box Museum.

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## 2014 Historical Society Scholarship Awarded

Emily Surman of the New Providence High School Class of 2014 was awarded the Society's annual scholarship. Emily plans to be a high school history teacher.

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## Welcome to Our New Members

Mr. Edwin Len  
Mrs. Peggy MacNeal  
Mr. Robert Glidden

Mr. Don Burkitt  
Mr. William Hoeffling

Mr. & Mrs. Allen Morgan  
Mr. Robert Bashford



# Changing Face of New Providence

Change seems to be particularly robust this year as we look around New Providence.

## Central Avenue

**Fitness Factory Health Club** has set-up operations in half of the old A&P location and will be opening soon.

**Central Market** has opened in the other half of the old A&P.

**Atlantic Rehabilitation Center** has relocated from Overlook Hospital to 550 Central Avenue in the former Azoplate Corporation (Lithographers) building.

Work has begun on the **Berkeley Aquatic Club** coming to New Providence in the former Panasonic Building.

## Springfield Shopping Center

**AT&T** has opened a shop.

**Kidding Around Childrensware** closed June 30.

**Muscle Maker** has closed. This location was formerly occupied by Bellariva Trattoria & Pizzeria.

Prudential Realtors has changed its name to **Berkshire Hathaway Properties**.

**Chipotle Grille** is going to open in the space formerly occupied by Prudential Real Estate on Springfield Avenue.

## Springfield Avenue

**Done Well Cleaners** at 1312 has closed.

**Drivers Seat**, a new driving school, has opened above the former cleaner. This space was previous occupied by *The Dispatch*, a local weekly newspaper.

**Cartridge World**, formerly located at 1253 Springfield Avenue, has also relocated to this building. This building has a long history. It was originally an academy building on the Presbyterian Church property on Passaic Street during the mid-1800s. It was moved to this location in 1913. Over the years, this building also served as the original Library, Junior Order of Mechanics Hall, Balcom Parcells Hardware store, Leisure Travel and a store known as On the Edge. **Century 21 Timony Realty** at 1259 Springfield Avenue has closed. To move to 1312 Springfield Avenue, **Cartridge World**, vacated 1253 Springfield Avenue which was formerly occupied by Cottage Computer and The Crafters Boutique.

**The Gallery at Positive Image**, 1282 Springfield Avenue has closed. It was previously occupied by Diamond Designer and the Gebert Agency, Insurance and Real Estate.

**Bistro 73** opened at 1288 Springfield Avenue in the space recently occupied by Galileo. This space was formerly part of McGrath's Paint & Hardware store. The owners of Bistro 73 are not strangers to New Providence as they once operated Aquila, a restaurant formerly on South Street, where McGrath's is currently.

## Mountain Avenue

All-State Insurance and former K-Line Transportation Building, on the corner of Mountain Avenue and South Street, has been razed by Erickson Living for the construction of a continuing care retirement community. The development is called **Lantern Hill**.



A view of 1312 Springfield Avenue from the past.



1312 Springfield Avenue in October 2014.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Memberships (Many corporations will match contributions.)

Individual \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Business Sponsorship \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Contribution \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Life \$125.00 \_\_\_\_\_

I will volunteer to help:

Computer \_\_\_\_\_ Research \_\_\_\_\_ Museum \_\_\_\_\_ Lawn Sale \_\_\_\_\_ Writing \_\_\_\_\_

Clerical \_\_\_\_\_ Grounds \_\_\_\_\_ Restoration \_\_\_\_\_ House Tours \_\_\_\_\_

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## Necrology

**Bill Clark** was a founding member of the society. He worked on the team to move the Salt Box museum from its original location at 1351 Springfield Avenue across the street to its current location at 1350 Springfield Avenue which backs against the Salt Brook. He was the last surviving member of that team that moved the museum. That was done in 1966. Bill was a long time employee of AT&T. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in England in the Army Air Corps Ninth Air Force as a radio operator. Bill flew in missions in support of D-Day.

**Vito and Eleanor Corso** died two weeks apart. Vito served as our unofficial chaplain for the past 12 years, conducting the prayer at our Annual Dinner meeting. He was employed by American Cyanamid. Vito was also active in the Knights of Columbus. Eleanor worked at our Lawn Sale for many years.

**Joe Pecca** was a long-time resident of New Providence. In addition, he was a long-time member of the society and was involved with the Paca Club and the New Providence Planning Board. He was employed by AT&T for 42 Years.

**Bill Cucco** was a long-time member of the society. He was employed by AT&T for 43 years. A member of the VFW, he served in the Army in World War II and the Korea War.

# New Providence Historical Society

## Officers, Board Members & Committees

President	Linda Kale
Vice President	Rick Anderson
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Smith
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
	John Bale
Turkey Tracks	J.R. Bale



### Museum Hours

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

### Mason Room Hours

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings  
 10 AM to Noon  
 Telephone: 908-665-1034

### Website:

[newprovidencehistorical.com](http://newprovidencehistorical.com)

The *Turkey Tracks* is also available on the website.



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