



Turkey Tracks

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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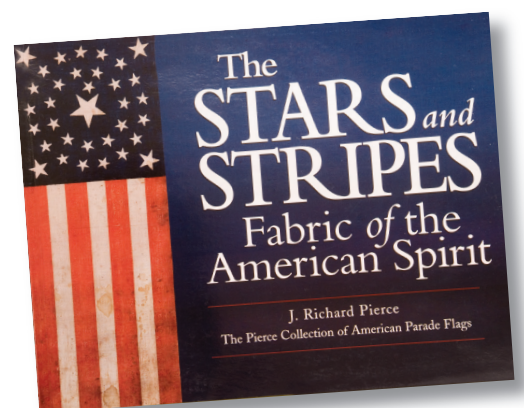
March 2015

“Fabric of the American Spirit”



At the Society’s Annual Dinner on April 16th, we will be treated to a talk by J. Richard Pierce on the more unusual historical aspects of the American flag. Mr. Pierce is the author of the 2005 book, *The Stars and Stripes, Fabric of the American Spirit*, which highlights the evolution and broad variations the flag has undergone.

The event will begin at 6PM at the Berkeley Plaza, 735 Springfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights. The cost is just \$35 per ticket for hors d’oeuvres, dinner and a stimulating speaker. Copies of Mr. Pierce’s book will be available for purchase.



President's Letter

As we come out of the Great Freeze of 2015, we have a great deal of activity to facilitate us thawing out. First up is an Open House at the Salt Box Museum on April 12th, 1-3 PM. Refreshments will be served.

Following that, on April 16th, the New Providence Historical Society's Annual Dinner, hosted at the Berkeley Plaza, featuring speaker, author and American Flag aficionado, J. Richard Pierce. Please join us for hors d'oeuvres, dinner, great conversation, and a dynamic historical speaker.

On April 23rd, we will be having a Trustee's Meeting in the Mason Room at the New Providence Memorial Library at 7PM. Members who desire to be more involved with the Society are invited to come. Please email Linda Kale at kale.linda@yahoo.com.

All this is followed on Saturday, May 2nd by the Salt Box Fair, our big fundraising activity. The rain date is May 9th. As usual, we are looking for donations for our Treasure Tables: New and like-new items, antiques, tools, jewelry, pocket books, biographies, histories. However, we have found in the past that certain items don't sell, like text books and children's toys. We are also looking for volunteers to help sell our merchandise. Even a few hours would help.

We are in need of docents, volunteers to serve as guides at the Salt Box Museum. We are holding a 90-minute docent class on May 23rd at 10AM at the museum.

The Society will also be participating in the New Providence Memorial Day Parade. If anyone would like to participate in the parade, (ride on the wagon or walk beside it), please contact me.

Hopefully by the end of the year, we will have a new addition to our museum infrastructure. We plan to erect a vintage workshop behind the Salt Box House. In addition to offering tours, we hope to have craft demonstrations at the workshop. If anyone would like to contribute vintage tools or ideas, they would be more than welcome.

Soon, the Society will once again be awarding a \$500 college scholarship to a graduating senior of New Providence High School.

Some may say history is old and dusty. I disagree. History is an ongoing endeavor. It's about people, what they did and do, what they stood for, and where they were and are going. The Society is also about people, the volunteers who drive or assist the organization, as well as the visitors to the museum and the Mason Room who learn new things. I encourage people to join and participate in the Society. History is all around us. Let's make history together.



Linda Kale
President

The Docent's Challenge

Just to test your knowledge of New Providence, we've set another "Docent's Challenge." However after a long winter of record snow storms, we thought it would be good to head outdoors.

Pictured to the right is a historic structure, cylindrical, constructed of stone, approximately six feet tall and less than 20 feet from a main road. Yes, it's overgrown, but not invisible.

Where is it located? And what was it's purpose? Can you find it?



Photograph by J.R. Bale, age 16.

Previous Challenge Solved

Who were these triumphant heroes of the gridiron? On the left is Sid Kitson, #83, who went on to play four seasons for the Green Bay Packers and the Dallas Cowboys. In the middle is Quarterback Paul Joyce, #13, with Pete Kennedy, #71. This photograph was taken in 1975 at the Thanksgiving Day Homecoming Game after winning the State Championship against Summit. This photograph can be found on page 65 on the 1976 high school yearbook, *Trail*, located in the New Providence Memorial Library.

Salt Box Craft Fair Set for Saturday, May 2, 2015

The Salt Box Craft Fair and Sale is scheduled for May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with May 9th as the rain date. Proceeds from the fair support the Society's scholarship program.

Vendors: Any vendors interested in renting space at \$25 per eight-foot table should contact Linda Kale at kale.linda@yahoo.com.

Donations: Please contact Linda Kale at kale.linda@yahoo.com to arrange for a drop off time for any items to be donated for our Society's "Treasure Tables." We would appreciate having these items by April 25th, so they can be priced in time for the sale. Once again, we need and request your support.

Volunteers: Members, please mark your calendar for baking, pricing, selling, set-up, clean-up and hosting at the Salt Box Museum.



Changing Face of New Providence

The year has begun with significant changes as we look around New Providence:

Village Shopping Center:

Choice Pet Store opened in the former home of the Village Pet Center, and going back in time, Foresight Optical and Mother's Cake Box.

Sports Clips (Barber Shop opened at beginning of the year.) Score was in this site previously.

Jersey Mike's Subs is scheduled to open in a space previously occupied by Colonial Camera.

Pure Barre, a physical fitness center, is where Quiznos and the former Village Café Bagel and The Bagel Baker.

South Street:

Providence Integrated Health and Fitness is located upstairs at 18 South Street, over the current Colorado Ski and Skate shop. This space was formerly occupied by a dance studio.

Strawberry Field is reopening under new management.

During Prohibition, bootleggers allegedly operated stills out of houses at 128 and 132 South Street, (pictured to the right). These two residences will be demolished soon and the property will be added to Memorial Park.



Marion Avenue:

River Bend Luxury Townhouses Community is being constructed on the former site of the Perillo Trucking Company.

Springfield Avenue:

Pioneer Kitchen and Bath has closed. In the past, this space had been occupied by Wall to Wall Carpeting and Madonna's Barbershop.

Necrology

Marge and Frank Varga died three days apart in January. Marge had been very active in the New Providence Garden Club and had been President of the club at one time. Frank was an Electrical Engineer.

Calendar for Upcoming Historical Society Events

April 12, 2015	Sunday	Open House at Salt Box Museum, 1 - 3 PM
April 16, 2015	Thursday	Annual Dinner, Cash Bar at 6PM, Dinner at 7 PM
April 23, 2015	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 - 9 PM
May 2, 2015	Saturday	Salt Box Fair, 9 AM - 3 PM
May 23, 2015	Saturday	Docent Class, 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Proposed Trustees - Class 2015: Pat Anelli, Margaret Maurer, and Barbara Pape

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 _____

Reservations for Annual Dinner

Berkeley Plaza, April 16, 2015, Cash Bar at 6 PM Dinner at 7 PM

Number of reservations _____ @\$35.00 for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner, April 16th

Amount of Check \$ _____. Please make check payable to NP Historical Society. Reservations must be received by April 2nd. Check for dinner and membership may be combined. Send check to the Mason Room, New Providence Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974, c/o Margaret Maurer.

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
 First Sundays, 1-3
 Or by appointment
 Telephone: 908-665-1034

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

Website:
newprovidencehistorical.com

The *Turkey Tracks* is also
 available in color on the
 website in PDF form.



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