



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

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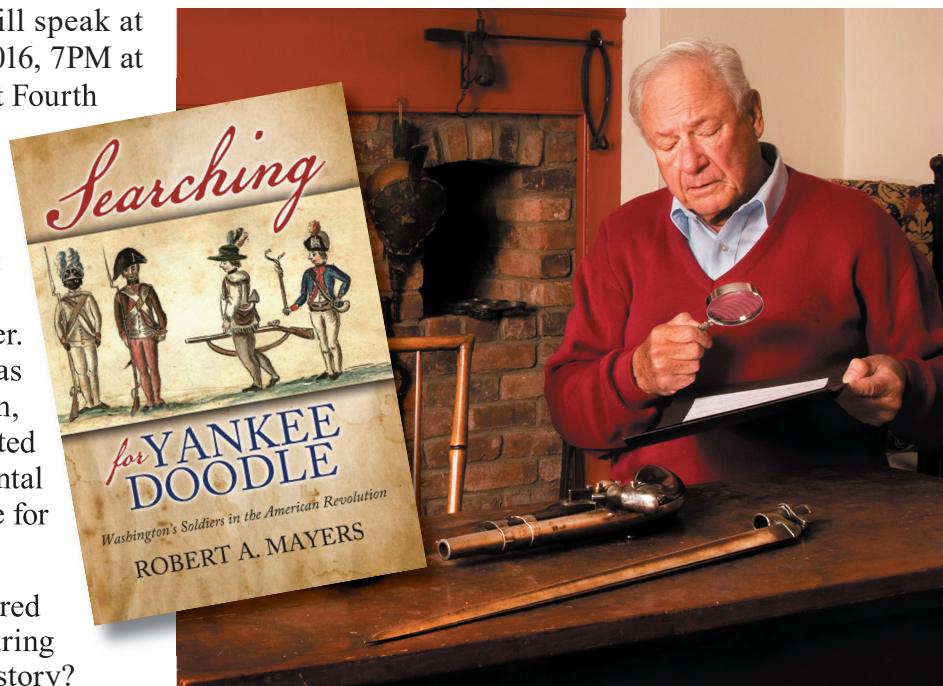
September 2016

Searching for Yankee Doodle!

Historian and author, Bob Mayers will speak at our fall meeting on the October 20, 2016, 7PM at the DeCorso Center, located at 15 East Fourth Street, New Providence, NJ.

Over the years, vastly different opinions have been offered by historians concerning the true nature of the most essential element of the War for Independence—the common foot soldier. For most of America's history, little was known about the identity of these men, why they fought and how the war affected their lives. Yet the men of the Continental Army were the people most responsible for achieving America's independence.

Who exactly were they and what inspired them to endure appalling hardships during the most critical time in American history?



Robert Mayers (Photo by J.R. Bale)

Mr. Mayers has spoken previously to the Society on the forgotten Revolutionary War battles of New Jersey. We welcome him back. Bob will also be available to sign his newest book, *Searching for Yankee Doodle: Washington's Soldiers in the American Revolution*. Learn more about Bob at www.revolutionarydetective.com.

Our Golden Anniversary Year Closes

In case you've missed it, 2016 was the 50th anniversary of the New Providence Historical Society. The year gave us a moment to pause to reflect and appreciate the hard work many of our past members put into the society. In addition to our usual activities, we had an ice cream social on August 14th and buried a time capsule for the 100th anniversary. See page 3 for more details.



President's Letter

As we head into the final stretch of 2016, our Society's golden anniversary year, we have much to be thankful for. Our society is as vibrant as ever. In August, we celebrated with an Ice Cream Social and the burial of our time capsule, both on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum.

Like any historical organization, our society is about the passing of time and preserving our past, but we also insist on giving something to the future. Speaking of the future, we have some great events ahead:

On October 15th and 16th, the Salt Box Museum will participate in Union County's "Four Centuries in a Weekend." See the calendar on Page 4 for the hours.

On Thursday, October 20th, 2016, 7PM at the De Corso Center, Bob Mayers, author of *The Search for Yankee Doodle, the Life of a Continental Soldier*, will return as our fall speaker. This time, Bob will share with us the details of the life of the common foot soldier during the American Revolution. The De Corso Center is located at 15 East Fourth Street, New Providence, NJ.

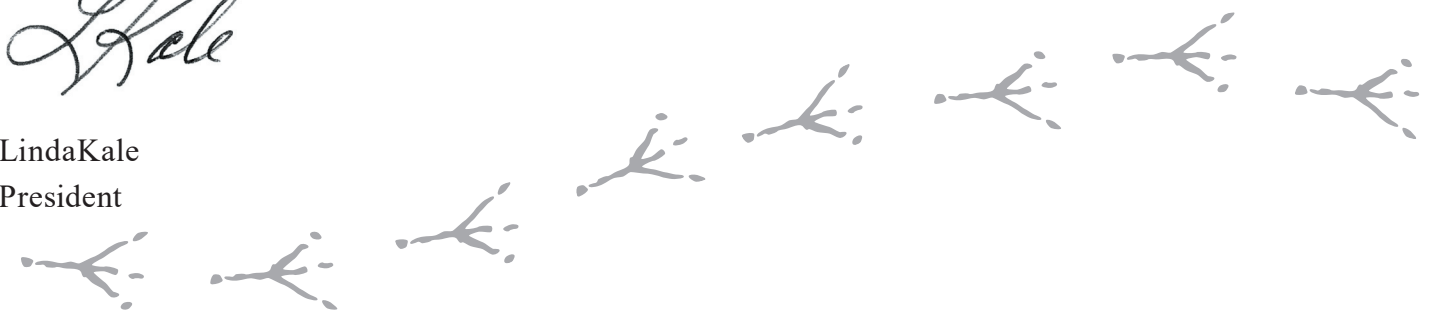
In 2017, we will begin an expanded series of historical lectures, to be shepherded by society member Colin duSaire. The first will be on February 16, 2017, 6:30 PM in the Conte Room at the New Providence Memorial Library. There Edward Eckert will discuss the history and innovations of Bell Labs, a center of innovation, so vital to our community and our country.

In another program, date to be determined, we will teach people to research their families' genealogy. We encourage children, parents and grandparents to come together. Make it a family event!

We have a new intern, Kate Hearn, who will help us in the Mason Room archives. Volunteers are always needed and welcome. So please, reach out to us.



LindaKale
President



Special Note: Many members have still not renewed their annual membership. Please check to see if your membership is up-to-date. Dues are vital to keeping the Society functioning.

50th Anniversary Celebration

On Saturday, August 14th, the Society celebrated its 50th Anniversary with an ice cream social on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum. And despite the high temperatures, we had quite an attendance. Special thanks to Rick Anderson, Kerry Lee who coordinated the Ice Cream Social event, as well as Pete Elefante of Zita's who supplied the refreshing ice cream. Our celebration included displays of our photographic archives, a 1966 retrospective, and the contents of the time capsule.



Kate Hearn with the 50-year display. (Photo by Rick Anderson)

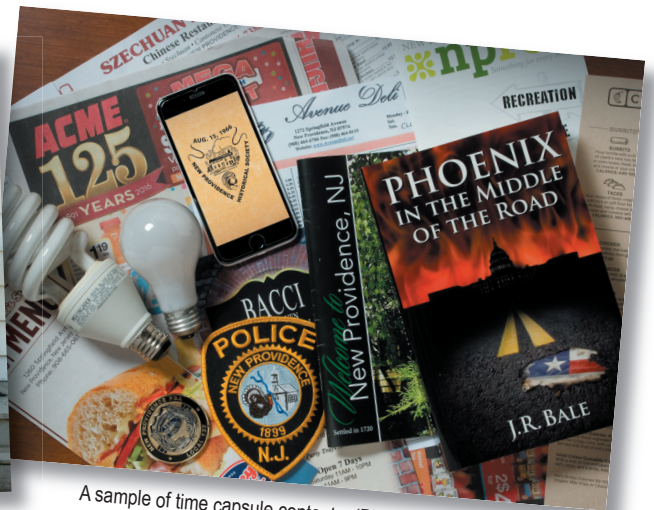


President Linda Kale with grandchildren. (Photo by Rick Anderson)

On Monday, August 15th, the time capsule was sealed and buried. The intention is for the capsule and its contents to be buried for 50 years and unearthed on the 100th anniversary of the Society.



L-R: Kerry Lee, Rick Anderson, Linda Kale, Mayor Al Morgan, Colin duSaire, Barbara Pape, Sara Jane Vignali and Gail Sauren gather around the capsule just before burial on Monday, August 15, 2016.



A sample of time capsule contents. (Photo by J.R. Bale)

To commemorate our 50th anniversary, J.R. Bale created and arranged for a special limited edition postage stamp, featuring a reproduction of the society's logo, (pictured right). These stamps will be used for posting this special anniversary edition of *Turkey Tracks*. As only approximately 200 stamps were produced, any philatelists might want to hold onto this one.

Just an anniversary note: While the Society was formed in 1966, the Salt Box House wasn't moved until 1967. That means we have another 50th Anniversary coming up in 2017. So, hold onto your historical hats!



Calendar for Upcoming Historical Society Events

2016

October 2, 2016	Sunday	Open House at Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
October 13, 2016	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room
October 15, 2016	Saturday	Four Centuries in a Weekend, Open House 10 AM - 5 PM
October 16, 2016	Sunday	Four Centuries in a Weekend, Open House 12 Noon - 5 PM
October 20, 2016	Thursday	Talk on the Life of the Continental Soldier by Bob Mayers, 7 - 9 PM
November 6, 2016	Sunday	Booth at New Providence Street Fair
November 13, 2016	Sunday	Open House at Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
November 17, 2016	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room
December 4, 2016	Sunday	Holiday Open House at Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
December 15, 2016	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room

2017

January 19, 2017	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room
February 9, 2017	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room
February 16, 2017	Thursday	Talk by Edward Eckert on Bell Labs, 6:30 PM
March 16, 2017	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room

* Please check our website, www.newprovidencehistorical.com, for details and updates.



Katherine DeMeo is Our 18th Scholarship Recipient

Katherine DeMeo (17) is the 18th recipient of the Historical Society's Sara Jane Regan Scholarship. Katie will be attending Fordham University with the intention of double-majoring in history and political science.

Katie has had a long fascination with history. She says she's been obsessed with Colonial Williamsburg as a child. Since then, she and her family completed a quest of visiting all 50 states, including many historical sites. Some of the highlights were Four Corners, Yellowstone National Park, the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis, as well as the cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde.

Eventually, Katie hope to attend law school, after which, she hopes "to make a difference." The Society wishes her well in his future studies.



The Changing Face of New Providence

TMC Boutique, owned by Linda Tribuna, has taken over the location of Timony Realty in the Adams Shopping Center. TMC will be selling items crafted by local artists.

Barth's Market is expanding by building an extension onto the southern side of their building on South Street.

Bistro 73, which has changed its name to **Providence Bar and Kitchen**, was the first restaurant to obtain and use a newly issued liquor license. The **Murray Hill Hotel & Suites**, also obtained a liquor license, valid as of Fall 2016. The Vardas brothers obtained a license for use at the site which was formerly a Friendly's. They have since transferred the license to their **Prestige Diner** location on Springfield Avenue.

The Avenue Deli at 1272 Springfield Avenue has reopened following a major renovation.

My Gym New Providence has posted a sign near their future location at 1330 Springfield Avenue, formerly of Home Again Design. This children's fitness center is scheduled to open in October 2016. **Home Again Design** has relocated to 333 Springfield Avenue, Summit.

Adams Men's Clothing Store, in the Adams Shopping Center, has closed their storefront retail business, which has been taken over by The MAX Challenge, a fitness facility.

Lantern Hill, located at the corner of Mountain Avenue and South Street, began welcoming residents to their new retirement community.



Member & Citizen News

We would like to welcome our new members: **Robert Keller, Gary & Patricia Kummer, Christopher & Amy Lepre, Mark & Jamie Peterson**, and **William & Rita Wehrle**.

Leonard Blessing gave a talk to the New Jersey Science Teachers Association on the history of Maitland Simmonds, the science teacher the Simmonds committee is named after. This committee organizes and conducts one-week Summer Institutes for NJ science teachers to update their knowledge. Blessing is a retired science teacher from Millburn High School where he worked for 50 years.

Ann Powers retired from years of volunteering in the Mason Room and managing displays. We miss her.

Dorothy Gade (96), sister of Sara Jane Regan, passed away on April 12, 2016. Dorothy was a founding member of St. Andrew's Church. She worked in the Borough's tax collector's office.

Father Salvatore Busichio, Jr., (82) died on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 in Raleigh, NC. Many remember his fire-and-brimstone homilies at Our Lady of Peace Church.

If you have news you would like included in the next *Turkey Tracks*, please send it to:

New Providence Historical Society
c/o New Providence Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974
Attn: J.R. Bale

New Providence Historical Society Officers & Committees

President	Linda Kale
Vice President	Rick Anderson
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Smith
Recording Secretary	Kerry Lee
Treasurer	Gail Souren
Publicity	Linda Kale
Displays	Barbara Pape
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Membership	Margaret Maurer
Computer Archives	Colin duSaire
<i>Turkey Tracks & Website</i>	J.R. Bale

Trustees

Rick Anderson, Patrick Anelli, J.R. Bale,
Linda Kale, Margaret Maurer, Barbara Pape,
Gail Souren, Carol Smith.
(One vacancy at this time.)



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

Turkey Tracks is also
available in color on our
website in PDF form.

Facebook Page:

facebook.com/NewProvidenceHistoricalSociety



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