



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

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September 2017

Revolutionary War Spies!

When we hear the word “spy,” most of us think of James Bond. Yet, more than a century before Ian Fleming created his fictional cold warrior, George Washington was an ardent advocate and practitioner of spying in the Colonial struggle for independence. If he hadn’t been, today we might be singing “God Save the Queen.”

Historian Damien Cregeau will take us into the murky and forgotten arena of colonial espionage at our fall meeting on **October 12, 2017**. Mr. Cregeau graduated from Hillsdale College with a bachelor’s degree in history, and from Colorado State University with a master’s degree in history. Longtime residents of Summit, NJ, he and his wife are longtime re-enactors and own two houses in Connecticut dating back to 1765.

Mr. Cregeau will speak at 7 PM at the DeCorso Center at 15 East Fourth Street in New Providence. Refreshments will be served.



New Providence Book Festival



New Providence
Book Festival

On **Saturday, September 16, 2017**, 9 AM to 3 PM, the Salt Box Museum will host, on its grounds, the New Providence Book Festival. Over a dozen New Jersey authors, across various genres, will be on hand to discuss and sign their books. A free raffle ticket will be given for every book purchase. All are invited to come to this cultural event. Refreshments will be available. The Salt Box Museum will be open to all visitors free of charge. The raindate is September 23rd.



President's Letter

Fifty years ago, the founders of the New Providence Historical Society undertook the monumental task of moving an old farmhouse across Springfield Avenue to create the Salt Box Museum. In the museum's golden anniversary year, the society is undertaking one of its most ambitious fall seasons yet.

On Saturday, September 16th, the Society is co-sponsoring the New Providence Book Festival on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum. Over a dozen New Jersey authors—several from New Providence—will be signing books and participating in panel discussions. For every book purchased, the buyer will receive a free raffle ticket for an overnight stay at the Murray Hill Hotel and a \$50 gift certificate for Moe's Bistro. In addition, the Salt Box Museum will be open free of charge. Refreshments will be available. Special thanks to Lantern Hill for co-sponsoring this event. The rain date for the festival is September 23rd.

The *History Talks* series continues On Thursday, September 21, 2017, a presentation on the Grounds for Sculpture will be given in the Conti room in the New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue.

On October 12, 2017, historian Damien Cregeau will make a presentation on the fascinating subject of Revolutionary War Spies at our fall meeting.

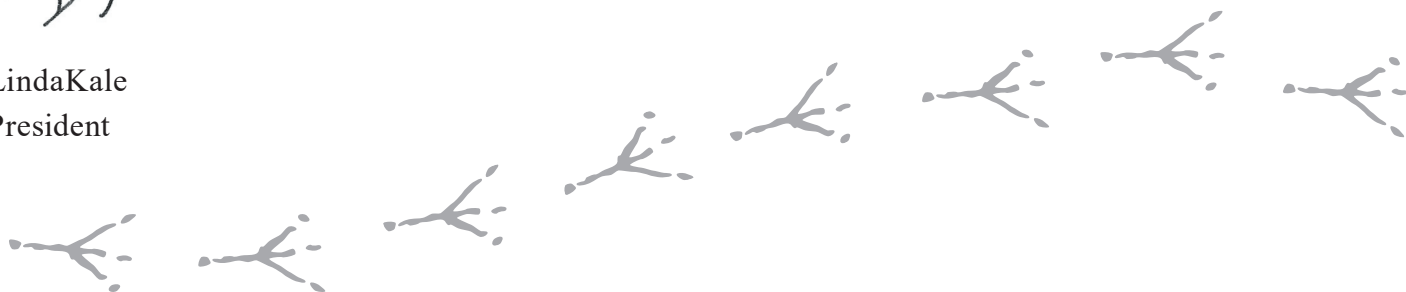
On the weekend of October 21st and 22nd, the Salt Box Museum will again participate in Union County's "Four Centuries in a Weekend." Simultaneously on Sunday, we'll also have our usual booth at the New Providence Street Fair. All hands on deck! (Volunteers needed.)

Our final *History Talk* will be on Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7 PM on the NJ Sharing Network headquartered here in New Providence. The presentation will be at 7 PM in the Conti Room in the New Providence Memorial Library.

We hope you are able to partake of many of these events this fall. Volunteers are always needed and encouraged. If you'd like to volunteer, or just have questions, give us a call at 908-665-1034.



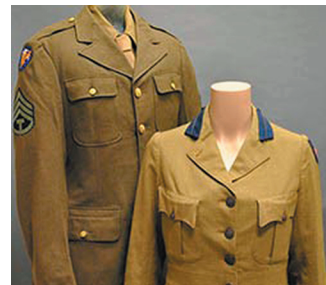
LindaKale
President



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.

The Uniforms of New Providence Heroes

A number of World War I and World War II military uniforms and accessories from the Society's garment collection are included in a newly opened exhibit, "The Evolution of Military Fashion" at the Morris Museum, 6 Normandy Heights Road, Morristown, NJ. The exhibit runs from July 5 to November 26, 2017. Below are the society's contributions to the exhibit.



World War I Army – Uniform John Dodge Clark (1896-1998)

In 1917, Mr. Clark volunteered to serve with the Allied Expeditionary Forces as a second lieutenant in the artillery. His first assignment was as an aerial observer flying with the French Escadrille. His battery joined the U.S. 2nd Division and fought in the war's most famous engagements, including Chateau Thierry, Belleau Wood, Soissons, the Argonne Forest and finally the crossing of the River Meuse. Earning the Silver Star and the Croix de Guerre, he kept a diary of his war experiences, which was the subject of a Veteran's Day article in the *Independent Press* on Nov. 11, 1998. His detailed memoirs end with the signing of the peace treaty, his regiment's return to the U.S. and his parade up Fifth Avenue. He returned to Brooklyn and married Emma Marie Zangler, an army nurse he courted in France. He worked for Monroe Calculator Company in Orange and in 1926 as a sales manager with A.R. Meeker in Newark, retiring in 1962 as president. Mr. Clark served as our Borough Clerk in the 1960's, retiring as borough administrator in 1976. He passed away at 103.

World War II Navy Uniform – William C. Sawyer (1891-1996)

Born in Basking Ridge, Mr. Sawyer enlisted in U.S. Navy Construction Battalions (CB) or Seabees and saw action in the South Pacific on Saipan. Husband of Marie Hoag Sawyer. He was employed for 47 years by the DL&W Railroad in Hoboken, retiring in 1975. Joining the New Providence Fire Dept. in 1931, he served as Fire Chief, Fire Inspector, Fire Commissioner and Treasurer. He was Deputy Police Officer in the Borough in 1940. He served as a councilman in the Borough in 1949, and was a member of the N.P. Senior Citizens Club, serving as president and chairman of the Board of Trustees. He was a member of American Legion Post 433 of New Providence. He lived in New Providence for 84 years. The Society has four of Mr. Sawyer's Navy uniforms.

World War II Red Cross Uniforms – Marie Hoag Sawyer (1913-2004) & Jane Keisler Parcels (1909-1988)

Marie Hoag Sawyer, wife of William Sawyer (above), was a Red Cross Volunteer during WWII at Overlook Hospital. Born in Brooklyn, she lived in New Providence for 70 years. She was a secretary for NP Board of Education for 20 years, retiring in 1972. She was a member of the Women's Club, NP Garden Club and the Senior Citizens Club. Her Red Cross uniform consists of a jumper, pale blue cotton, square neckline, back button closure, calf-length skirt gathered into waistband; a white cotton blend blouse, short sleeves and front closure.

The second Woman's Red Cross Dress Uniform was worn by Jane Keisler Parcels, wife of Dayton Balcom Parcels. Born in Chatham, NJ, she graduated from Kent Place School and Wellesley College. She served as treasurer, tax collector and custodian of school funds for the Borough of New Providence for 30 years. She helped found the League of Women Voters, New Providence Historical Society and served with the American Red Cross Canteen during WWII. She was active and held many positions in New Providence Presbyterian Church, Lincoln School PTA, Cub Scouts, Care and Concern, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the Republican Party. She was named "Woman of The Year" by the United Way of Summit-New Providence.

A third light blue Red Cross uniform with long sleeves and dark blue epaulets was also lent for the exhibit, but the original owner is unknown.

Calendar for Upcoming Historical Society Events

2017

September 16, 2017	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival at Salt Box Museum, 9 AM- 3 PM (Raindate: September 23, 2017)
September 21, 2017	Thursday	History Talks: Grounds for Sculpture, Conti Room, Library 7 PM
October 12, 2017	Thursday	Fall Talk, "Revolutionary Spies" DeCorso Center, 7 PM
October 21, 2017	Saturday	Four Centuries in a Weekend, Open House 10 AM - 5 PM
October 22, 2017	Sunday	Four Centuries in a Weekend, Open House 12 Noon - 5 PM
October 22, 2017	Sunday	Booth at New Providence Street Fair 10 AM - 4 PM
November 5, 2017	Sunday	Open House at Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM
November 16, 2017	Thursday	History Talks: NJ Sharing Network, Conti Room, Library, 7 PM
December 3, 2017	Sunday	Holiday Open House at Salt Box Museum, 1-3 PM

2018

January 18, 2018	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room
February 15, 2018	Thursday	Trustee's Meeting, 7 PM, Mason Room

*Please check our website, www.newprovidencehistorical.com, for details and updates. Anyone wishing to attend a trustee's meeting, should check with Linda Kale or Rick Anderson to check it has not been rescheduled



Michele McKnight is Our 19th Scholarship Recipient

Michele McKnight is the recipient of the Howard Smith Scholarship, named for the man who led the efforts to move and establish the Salt Box Museum 50 years ago. Fittingly, Michele developed an interest in history while visiting the museum. "Visiting the museum and seeing all the old exhibits, I realized how far we've come."

She is particularly struck by how past events have affected the present, which spurred her interest in politics. During her high school career she participated in programs such as the Model U.N. Michele will be attending Drexel University in Philadelphia, majoring in Political Science.

Turning her mind from the past to the future, she's thinking of attending law school after college. "But that's nothing official," she says.

The Changing Face of New Providence

Positive Image, the photography studio, has moved across the street to 1283 Springfield Avenue, formerly a bicycle shop.

Village Nails at 1284 Springfield Avenue closed during the summer.

HG Edwards is expected to fill the space where Village Nails and Positive Image were.

Tide Dry Cleaners have built a new building at the back of the Village Shopping Center, where the Bank of America drive-thru used to be.

The reconstruction of **Barth's Market** continues. The new structure has been erected. Barth's has moved in. The original building has been knocked down and is in the process of being rebuilt.

J.P. Morgan Chase Bank is taking over 75 South Street, formerly Friendly's Restaurant.

Two new houses are being built on a previously vacant lot on the north side of Pearl Street .



Member & Citizen News

Please welcome new member **Audrey Brown Keebler**.

Nancy Jean Dwarnick (88) passed away on August 18, 2017. Nancy and her husband Stephen were residents of New Providence for over 40 years. Besides being a historical society member, she was a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and the New Providence Women's Club. A memorial service will be held on October 21st at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Rev. Dr. **Murdoch MacPherson**, (74) pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, passed away on August 18, 2017, surrounded by his family at Morristown Medical Center. "Pastor Mac" served Faith Lutheran Church as pastor since 1982.

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</i> & Website	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 Mornings
10 AM to Noon
Telephone: 908-665-1034
Appointments available

Website:

newprovidencehistorical.com

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

Facebook Page:

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