



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

Volume 56 No. 1

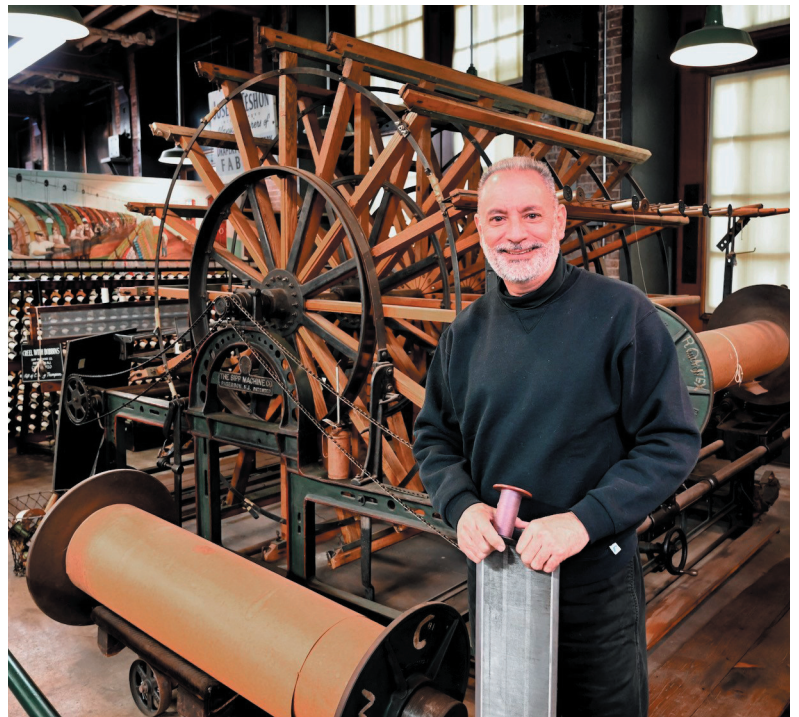
Issue #131

March 2023

First Planned Industrial City *Paterson, NJ*

Founded in 1792 by Alexander Hamilton and the Society for Useful Manufactures, Paterson, New Jersey became the first planned industrial city in the United States. But it didn't happen overnight. Paterson's history goes much further back before the establishment of the S.U.M., and the major industries that made Paterson world-renowned in industries such as silk, locomotives and airplane engine production.

On Thursday, April 20, 2023, Mr. Giacomo DeStefano historian and director of operations of the Paterson Museum will share his knowledge at our Annual Dinner.



The **Salt Box Craft Fair** returns on **May 6, 2023**, 9am to 3pm.

Please join us for this exhibition and sale of high quality arts and crafts on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum at 1350 Springfield Avenue in New Providence. In addition to crafts, the society will have a bake sale and free tours of the Salt Box Museum.

On **June 10, 2023**, the Society will host the **New Providence Flea Market**, with a wide array of venerable treasures.

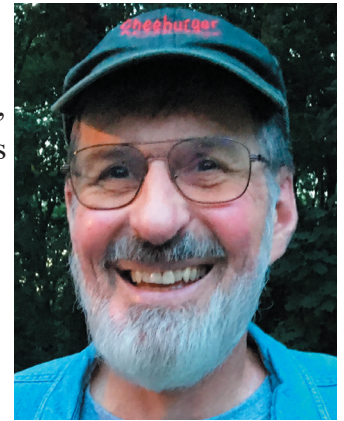


**New Providence
Flea Market**

Board of Trustees Letter

Dear Members,

We are pleased to announce that Rick Anderson has agreed to become President of the New Providence Historical Society. Rick has served the Society in numerous ways, including maintaining the physical facilities and grounds, being a docent, and serving as acting president during most of the pandemic. We appreciate his contribution and look forward to his leadership as president.



Rick Anderson

The Society has been very busy in the last few months:

Beginning in December 2022, the exterior of the Salt Box Museum house is now illuminated at night. The lighting equipment and installation were a gift from S&M Landscape Lighting, Hillsborough, NJ. Special thanks to Matt Malyar.

The third historical marker has been ordered and will be placed at the Salt Box Museum. In support of this project, the Society has just been awarded a Special Projects Grant of \$2000 through the 2023 Union County History Grant Program.

After years of work, research and a few setbacks, the Academy Bell has finally been restored to full operation. You may have heard it ring out if you were in the vicinity of Academy Street and Springfield Avenue.

On Thursday, April 20th, we have our Annual Dinner at the Vintage Tavern in Gillette. Our speaker will be Giacomo DeStefano historian and director of operations of the Paterson Museum, who will speak to us about the first planned industrial city in the United States, located in Paterson. We encourage you to join us. Please see details on page 5.

On May 6th, we will once again hold the Salt Box Craft Fair, hosting artisans with a wide range of handmade arts and crafts. The museum will also be open for tours, while also holding a bake sale.

On June 10th, we will have our annual New Providence Flea Market, including treasures from the Society's collection. Proceeds from these events support the maintenance of the Salt Box Museum and fund our New Providence High School scholarship program. Any members should feel free to rent a booth.

Volunteers are always needed and encouraged, especially docents to guide visitors at the museum. There is always lots more to do. If you'd like to volunteer, or just have questions, please give us a call at 908-665-1034.

New Providence Historical Society Board of Trustees

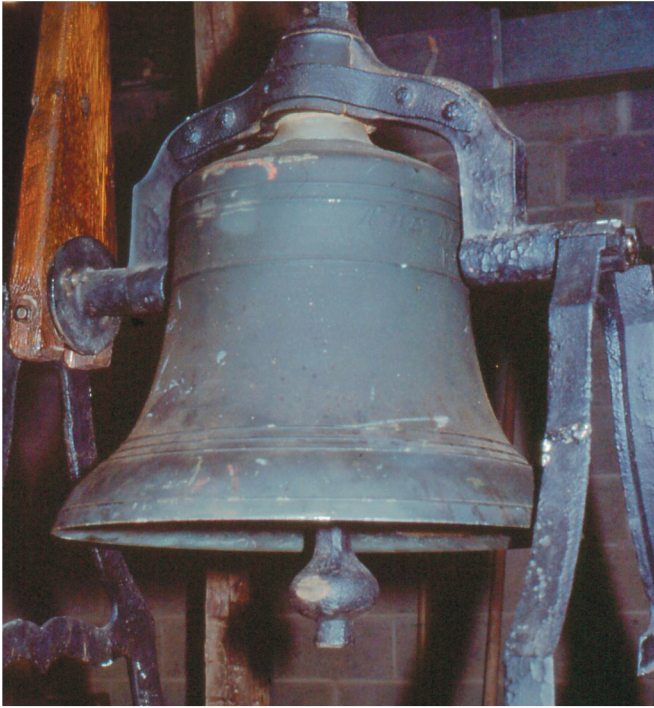


2023 Calendar for Upcoming Society Events

April 20, 2023	Thursday	Annual Dinner, 6PM
May 6, 2023	Saturday	Salt Box Craft Fair, 9AM - 3PM
June 10, 2023	Saturday	New Providence Flea Market, 9AM - 3PM
September 16, 2023	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival, 9AM - 3PM

Other events may be added, so check our calendar at www.newprovidencehistorical.com.

Let It Ring!



The bell now rings every day at 12 noon. Special thanks to Robert Keller, Rick Anderson and Ralph Parlapiano of the New Providence Department of Public Works. Their persistence and dedication were invaluable.

After approximately 40 years, the former 1870 Academy Bell, has been placed back in service. The bell, located in the belfry of the former Academy School, later Borough Hall, at the corner of Springfield Avenue and Academy Street can be heard at 12 noon, each day.

The New Providence Historical Society was awarded a \$2500 history grant by Union County to restore functionality to the bell. The Society, working with the New Providence Department of Public Works, working through several setbacks, returned the bell back to full service in late January.



New Jersey Trivia

- New Jersey has the country's largest spoon collection, totaling 5400 in a museum in Paterson, NJ. (In the interest of full disclosure, according to Official Guinness Records, Mr. Des Warren of Mayfield, Australia owns a collection of over 30,000 teaspoons as recognized by the UK Spoon Collectors Club.)
- New Jersey has the highest population density in the country, an average of 1,030 people per square mile, which is 13 times the national average.
- New Jersey natives include Jason Alexander, Count Basie, Judy Blume, Aaron Burr, Grover Cleveland, David Copperfield, Lou Costello, Danny DeVito, Peter Dinklage, Michael Douglas, Kirsten Dunst, Connie Francis, James Gandolfini, Gloria Gaynor, Chelsea Handler, Ed Harris, Whitney Houston, Jon Bon Jovi, Nathan Lane, Queen Latifa, Jerry Lewis, Ray Liotta, Jack Nicholson, Eddie Money, Shaquille O'Neal, Joe Piscopo, Laura Prepon, Kelly Ripa, Paul Robeson, Paul Rudd, Paul Simon, Frank Sinatra, Bruce Springsteen, Meryl Streep, John Travolta, Sarah Vaughan, Dionne Warwick, and Wendy Williams.

The Changing Face of New Providence

Investors Bank, at corner of Springfield Ave. & Passaic Street, is now **Citizens Bank**.

The **Wells Fargo** branch at 36 South Street will be closing this location on May 3.

Body Align Physical Therapy has opened at 1310 Springfield Avenue, where Cartridge World was previously.

Member & Citizen News

Please welcome a plethora of new members: **Alex Kogan, Susan A. Reed, Zulma D. Oviedo-Cordero, John F.X. Keane and Christopher Souren.**

The New Providence Historical Preservation Commission had its first meeting, on January 11, 2023. The citizens who serve on this commission include Alan Leonard, Dan Bagley, Megan Beecher, John Sponauer and Jeff Grob. Robert Keller serves as an alternate. The commission meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Lincoln Room in Borough Hall.

Unfortunately, we've lost a lot of friends since the last issue:

Juan Ryan (93) passed away on November 6, 2022. He graduated from Georgetown University in 1951 and attended Georgetown Law School. He served as a Lieutenant Commander in the US Navy where he fought in the Korean War. Juan was a resident of New Providence for 60 years, where he established a successful law practice and served his community through volunteering at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. Juan and his partners purchased and donated the building that was to become the Salt Box Museum.

Elizabeth "Betty" Newell (95) passed away on October 10, 2022. Betty volunteered for the Historical Society for many years, including acting as Vice President. She also volunteered for many years with the TWIG Overlook Hospital Auxiliary and then for 46 years with the New Providence Historical Society.

Barbara Pape (88) passed away on December 31, 2022. Barbara was a society member for 30 years and an active trustee of the society for 24 years. She staffed the Mason Room each Tuesday, managed library displays and helped with our craft fairs, street fair booths and other activities.

William "Bill" Brohan (91) passed away on January 18, 2023. Born in County Cork, Ireland, Brohan resided in New Providence from 1957 to 2018. He was an accomplished singer and a member of the choir at Our Lady of Peace Church for over forty years. He was also a longtime member of the Springfield Council Knights of Columbus.

Joe Massino (92) passed away on January 15, 2023. As the first member of his family to attend college, he graduated with honors from the Newark College of Engineering (NJIT) with a degree in civil engineering. He worked for PSE&G for over 41 years. He was a member of the Summit Old Guard and the CSA

Gloria Badgely (86) passed away on February 17, 2023. She and her late husband Jay established a veterinary practice in town. She was instrumental in the establishment of The Winston School and was elected to the New Providence School Board and served as its president. Gloria was also committed to the greater community and served on the board of many local organizations including the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill.

Membership Renewal Application

Our annual dues run from April 1st to March 31st, our fiscal year. Please fill in your information and mail your check to the New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. This will enable us to keep our membership and mailing lists current. Lifetime Members may submit any change in address, phone, email, etc., using this form or via email to newprovidencehistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Be sure to include your preference for Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. or Mrs. Membership dues provide the main income to support the Society's mission and activities, we rely on your renewal.

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Date _____

Annual Memberships (Many corporations will match contributions.)

Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business Sponsorship \$25.00 _____

I will volunteer to help:

Computer _____ Research _____ Museum _____ Craft Fair _____ Writing _____

Clerical _____ Grounds _____ Restoration _____ House Tours _____

Reservations for 2023 Annual Dinner

April 20, 2023, Hors d'oeuvre at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, Cash Bar.

Vintage Tavern, 342 Valley Road, Gillette, NJ 07933

Members are invited to bring a favorite dessert to share with those attending.

Number of reservations: _____ @ \$45.00 for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner

Donation to cover speaker fee _____ (Optional)

Amount of Check \$ _____.

Please make check payable to NP Historical Society.

Reservations should be received by **April 10, 2023**.

Send checks to:

New Providence Historical Society
c/o New Providence Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974



(Formerly Chimney Rock)



Proposed Trustees - Class of 2023: Kerry Lee and John Sponauer



New Providence Historical Society Officers & Committees

President	Rick Anderson
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Smith
Treasurer	Kerry Lee
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Membership	Vacancy
Website & <i>Turkey Tracks</i> editor	J.R. Bale
Social Media	Maria DeLuca
Recording Secretary	Audrey Keebler
Museum Docent Coordinator	Elizabeth Ryan
Display Coordinator	Maria DeLuca

Trustees

Rick Anderson, J.R. Bale, Maria DeLuca,
Robert Keller, Kerry Lee, Carol Smith,
Sara Jane Vignali

Email: newprovidencehistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Facebook Page: facebook.com/NewProvidenceHistoricalSociety



Salt Box Museum Hours

1350 Springfield Avenue
First Sundays, 1-3 PM
Or by appointment
Telephone: 908-665-1034

Mason Room Hours

at the New Providence Library
Tuesday Mornings,
10 AM to Noon
Second Saturdays, 11AM - 1 PM
Telephone: 908-665-1034
Appointments available

Website:

NewProvidenceHistorical.com

Turkey Tracks is available in
color on our website as a PDF.



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