



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

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Port Newark & the Origins of Container Shipping

Container shipping is a vital part of the global economy. Goods from all around the world are placed in large containers which are transported across the ocean in ships, then loaded on tractor-trailers and railroad flatbeds. But when and where did this world-changing invention get started? New Jersey perhaps?

On Thursday, October 12th, at 7 PM, our guest speaker, Angus Gillespie will share his knowledge of this vital and vibrant topic. This talk is open to all at the DeCorso Center at 15 E 4th Street in New Providence, NJ



New Providence
Book Festival

New Providence Book Festival

On **Saturday, September 23, 2023**, 9 AM to 3 PM, the Salt Box Museum will host on its grounds, the sixth annual New Providence Book Festival. Over 16 local authors, across various genres, will be on hand to discuss and sign their books. A free raffle ticket will be given for every book purchased. All are invited to come to this cultural event. Refreshments will be available at our bake sale. The Salt Box Museum will be open to all visitors free of charge. More information is available at www.NewProvidenceBookFestival.com. The rain date is September 30th.

Board of Trustees Letter

Dear Members,

The Society has been very active this summer. Maria DeLuca, our display coordinator, set up displays in both the New Providence Memorial Library and the Lantern Hill retirement community. In addition, our third historic marker was installed on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum in August.

This autumn will bring even more activities, including the 2023 New Providence Book Festival on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum and the returning Fall Talk at the DeCorso Center. In addition, we will once again be participating in Union County's "Four Centuries in a Weekend" on October 21-22, with the Salt Box Museum being open for the entire event. During both the book festival and Four Centuries events, John Sponauer will be conducting his historic tours of the Presbyterian Cemetery. See the calendar below for the dates of these events.

Looking forward to 2026, the United States will have its 250th anniversary. Some of us are old enough to remember the Bicentennial celebrations back in 1976. Although the anniversary is over two years away, plans are being developed for that celebration. So stay tuned.

Volunteers are always needed and encouraged, especially docents to guide visitors at the museum. There is always lots more to do. We are in particular need of a new membership manager. We'd also like to begin a program committee. 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



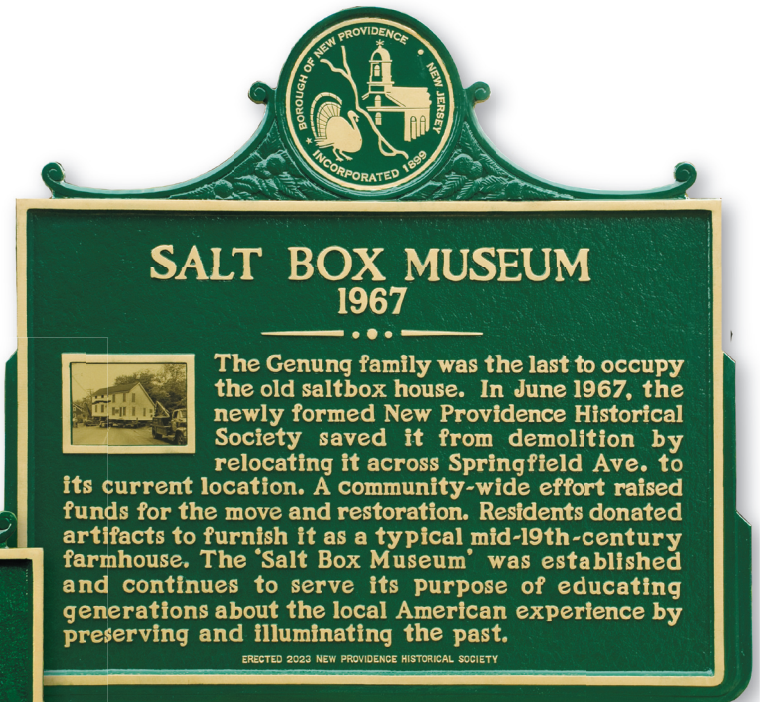
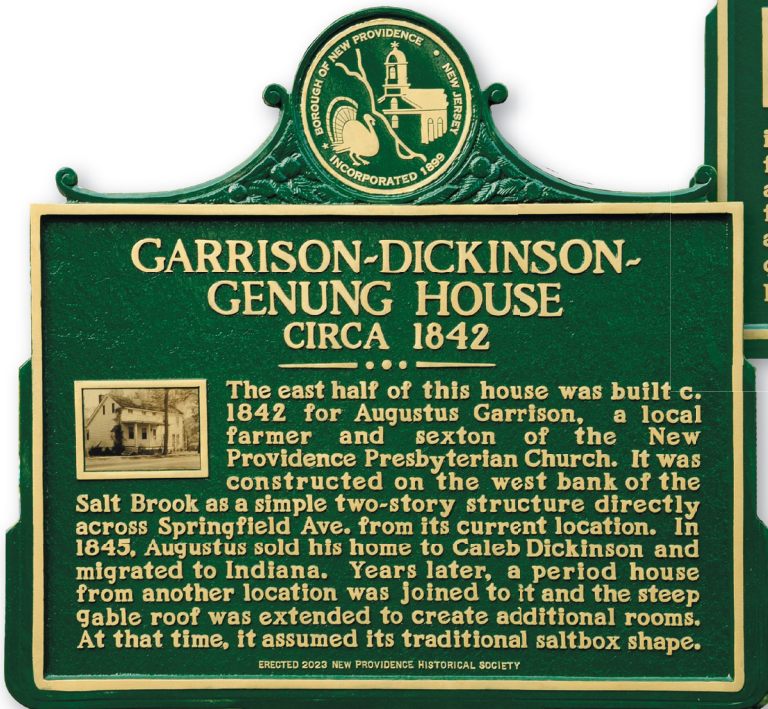
2023 Calendar for Upcoming Society Events

September 23, 2023	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival, 9 AM - 3 PM
September 23, 2023	Saturday	Presbyterian Cemetery Tour, 1 PM
October 12, 2023	Thursday	Fall Talk, 7 PM
October 21, 2023	Saturday	Presbyterian Cemetery Tour, 1 PM
October 21-22, 2023	Saturday & Sunday	Four Centuries in a Weekend
October 29, 2023	Sunday	New Providence Street Fair
November 11, 2023	Saturday	Presbyterian Cemetery Tour, 1 PM

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

Salt Box Historical Marker

A two-sided historical marker, commemorating the Salt Box Museum and its origins was installed on August 7th at the edge of the museum's property on Springfield Avenue. This marker is the third in a series of markers placed.



The first two markers stand at the Presbyterian Church and the old Academy/Boro Hall. Special thanks goes to Trustees Kerry Lee and Robert Keller, as well as the Department of Public Works for handling the installation.

2023 Society Scholarship



The New Providence Historical Society is proud to announce the 25th recipient of our annual scholarship is New Providence High School student **Jonathan Fletcher**.

While in high school, Jonathan served as a mentor at TryCan in Summit, working with children with special needs, a food server at Lantern Hill, and a docent at the Salt Box Museum. Jonathan is headed to Kutztown University to major in history with a minor in film. We wish Jonathan success in his schooling and career.

The Changing Face of New Providence

Not much has changed in the last six months: **Pastrami House**, at 1294 Springfield Avenue, opened this summer in a portion of the Bagel Café. Pastrami House moved here from Berkeley Heights.

Member & Citizen News

Please welcome our newest society member, **Nadine Geoffroy**.

Halsey Dickinson Genung (96) passed away on March 17, 2023. Halsey and his sister, Wilna Genung Keats (93), lived as children in the house that is now our Salt Box Museum. Between the mid 1920's and 1933 they lived in the house, when it was located across on the north side of Springfield Avenue.

Rita Wehrle (81) passed away on April 17, 2022. Rita grew up in Maplewood and attended Catherine Gibbs secretarial school. She worked at various organizations as a secretary and homemaker, and was active in the New Providence Senior Citizens Organizations. She also volunteered with the New Providence PAL.

Mary Alice Browning (82) passed away on July 24, 2023. She was a longtime resident of New Providence and a parishioner of the Chatham Church of Christ.



Display Programs



Maria DeLuca, our display coordinator, has been very busy both at the New Providence Public Library and at Lantern Hill.

During August, vintage men's and women's hats from the Society's collection graced the display cases of the library. The display included fashion plates with years showing the history and how they were worn for most of the hats. There was also some information on top hats and mourning clothes to go with the black hats.

If you are interested, the Society is seeking people to assist us with our women's and men's garment collection.

Earlier this year, Maria DeLuca also arranged a display on Carl Schultz, the "Mineral Water King" who was responsible for the Murray Hill train station and other aspects of Murray Hill.

Who knows what other displays lay in our future?



Judy Badgley Reconnects



On Saturday, June 23rd, Trustee Robert Keller hosted two visitors at the Salt Box Museum, Judy Badgley Bailey and her husband J. Parker Bailey from Oneonta, NY. Judy was born in New Providence in 1942, the daughter of Robert and Francis Badgley of Glenside Road, New Providence. Her family name is well known in these parts as generations of Badgleys contributed to making New Providence the wonderful place it is today. Judy's mother in particular was instrumental in the formation of the Salt Box Museum and the Historical Society.

Judy attended first grade in the Academy building and then finished her elementary and middle school education at the Lincoln school. Her first job out of school was sorting roses at the local greenhouses. She moved away during her high school years and spent most of her adult life in Las Vegas. She never forgot her roots and idyllic childhood growing up in New Providence. Judy was in town to visit her brother and wanted to explore the old neighborhood.

While in the Salt Box Museum, they chanced across a painting in the attic, painted by her aunt, Mary A. Badgley. The painting is an eastern viewing perspective of Springfield Avenue, looking toward Summit. We can place the location by the prominent location of the Liberty Pole at the corner of Springfield and South Street. The Society is looking into having the painting fully restored.

Judy recalls that her three aunts all lived together at 140 South Street and never married. Two were teachers (Harriett and Anne) and Mary was a dressmaker and a painter.

Robert then escorted the Badgleys to the Mason Room to explore the archives where they looked at hundreds of photos and accidentally discovered an image of her Aunt Mary A. Badgley taken July 23, 1890, when she was only 20 years old. She looks remarkable and well-dressed leaning against the stone supports of a bridge near the Passaic River. Many years later at the age of 72, Mary Badgley would paint the view of New Providence in 1942 which we can still enjoy today.

Judy and Parker plan to return to the Salt Box Museum for the "Four Centuries in a Weekend" on October 21st and 22nd.

This is a wonderful example of how both the Salt Box Museum and the Mason Room Archives can help people connect with their own New Providence history.



Mary A. Badgley (20) July 23, 1890



New Providence Historical Society Officers & Trustees

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