



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

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September 2025

The Legacy of Carl Schultz



Many people have been watching HBO's hit series *The Gilded Age*. Just like the characters in the popular show, our town, New Providence, experienced a time of great innovation and wealth.

On Thursday, October 9th, the Society's own Maria DeLuca will share the story of Carl H. Schultz, the New Yorker known as the father of Murray Hill, the section of New Providence and Berkeley Heights.

As a chemist, he earned the title of the "Mineral Water King." While many of his contemporaries built summer homes in Newport, RI, Carl chose to construct his weekend retreat in the Watchung Mountains for a breath of fresh air. He fell so in love with the area that, during the

Gilded Age, he acquired over 400 acres of land. Join us to hear his tale of invention, innovation, community, expansion, and family. Discover which aspects of his legacy endure in today's society.



New Providence
Book Festival

New Providence Book Festival

On **Saturday, September 20, 2025**, 9 AM to 3 PM, the Salt Box Museum will host the eighth annual New Providence Book Festival. Over 15 local authors 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. The rain date is September 27th. More information is available at www.NewProvidenceBookFestival.com.

Board of Trustees Letter

Dear Members,

The New Providence Historical Society is as vibrant as ever. The Society has been very active this year.

Maria DeLuca, our display coordinator, set up displays in both the New Providence Memorial Library. The most recent display revolves around the changing architecture over the years, specifically the Pictorial History of the Four Corners of New Providence. This display will appear at the Lantern Hill retirement community in October.

This year, the Society returned to the Memorial Day Parade after being absent for several years. Special thanks to Don Murphy of NP Fuel for lending us his vintage pickup truck.



The Society has also faced some challenges, including Mother Nature flooding the basement of the Salt Box Museum on July 14th. Special thanks to those volunteers who helped bail us out. We continue to move forward.

September and October are packed with a range of society activities. On Saturday, September 20th, the Salt Box Museum will host the New Providence Book Festival for the 8th year. This year, a Spoken Word Open Mike is being added to the program.

On Thursday, October 9th, our own Maria DeLuca will give the Fall Talk at the DeCorso Center on local entrepreneur, Carl H. Schultz, also known as the “Mineral Water King. In addition, the Society will participate in Union County’s “Four Centuries in a Weekend,” on October 18 and 19th. On October 26th, the Society will have a booth at the Pioneer Day Street Fair.

We will also have several Graveyard Tours at the Presbyterian Church with John Sponauer. (See calendar on Page 2.) To sign up, email NPcemeterytours@gmail.com with the name and number of people attending. Meet 10 minutes before start time on the sidewalk by church parking lot. Sturdy shoes are recommended due to uneven ground.

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 a year away, plans are being developed for that celebration. So, stay tuned.

Volunteers are always needed, especially docents to guide visitors at the museum. We’d also need to expand the programming committee to maintain and augment our schedule of activities. We are also looking for a publicity person. If you’d like to volunteer, or just have questions, please give us a call at 908-665-1034.

Sincerely,

New Providence Historical Society Board of Trustees

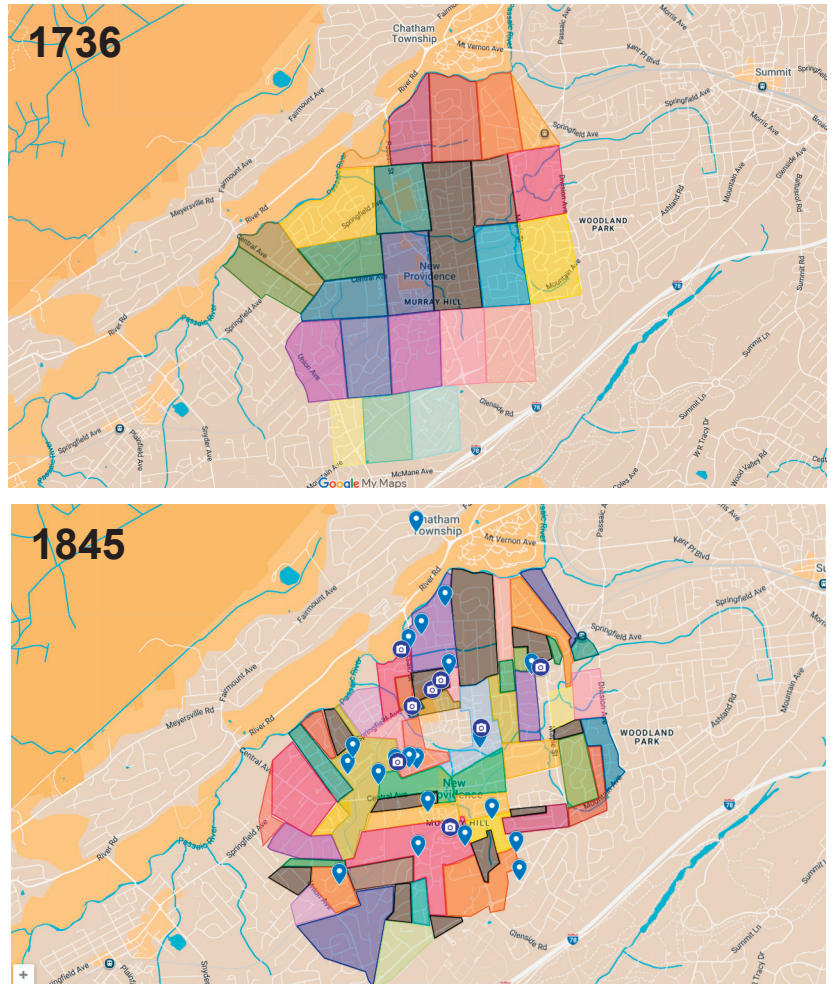


Interactive Zoning Maps for 1736 & 1845

Part of the New Providence Historical Society's mission is to document changes in the town. This is a daunting task. Luckily, the Society has the assistance of volunteers, one such volunteer being Aaria Nadar.

As part of her Girl Scout project, Aaria organized historical town records stored in the Mason Room and made them accessible to the public through a modern technological platform, specifically links to two interactive Google maps. There, visitors can locate their home or neighborhood to see who used to own the land during two different time periods, 1736 and 1845.

Access to these interactive maps are available through the Society website at <https://newprovidencehistorical.com/salt-box-museum/links>.



2025 Calendar for Upcoming Society Events

September 7, 2025	Sunday	Salt Box Museum Open House, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
September 20, 2025	Saturday	New Providence Book Festival, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM
September 27, 2025	Saturday	Presbyterian Graveyard Tour, 1:30 PM
October 9, 2025	Thursday	Fall Talk, DeCorso Community Center, 7:00 PM
October 18-19, 2025	Saturday & Sunday	Four Centuries in a Weekend
October 18, 2025	Saturday	Presbyterian Graveyard Tour, 1:30 and 2:30
October 26, 2025	Sunday	New Providence Street Fair / Pioneer Day
November 1, 2025	Sunday	Presbyterian Graveyard Tour, 1:30 PM

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

The Changing Face of New Providence

Crochet Lounge has opened at 1308 Springfield Avenue, former location of ByLocal. (ByLocal has moved to 219 South Street, Suite 222.)

Posh Spa & Nail and **YogaSix** have opened in the shopping center on Springfield Avenue.

Mr. Tankless has opened at 1682 Springfield Avenue at the corner of Central Avenue.

Celestino's Pizza & Ristorante has opening at 590 Central Avenue, former location of Coppola Ristorante & Pizzeria.

Primrose School of New Providence has completed construction and is opening on the corner of High Street and South Street. Previously on this site were a residence, two shops and a green house.



Member & Citizen News

Please welcome our newest society members, **Ellen Newell Rogers, Henry Espinosa, Kathryn Biber, Ronald Weinger, John Kieser, Michael & Beverly Kaczmariski.**

Angelo J. Del Monte (97) passed away on February 27, 2025. Angelo was a proud veteran of the United States Army, serving as part of the Allied Occupation of Austria at the end of World War II. Returning to New Providence he worked on the Erie Lackawanna Railroad. He married his beloved wife Clara of 68 years on April 23, 1950. Shortly after, they bought “the little store” on Marion Avenue and started their family.

In the mid 1960's he and Clara opened Del Monte Delicatessen, the first submarine sandwich shop in New Providence. Angelo was an antique and classic car enthusiast who loved collecting and working on all types of cars.

Angelo was a lifetime member of the William Paca Club, a past president of the New Providence Senior Citizens, and a founding member of the New Providence Police Reserve. He was a member of the New Providence American Legion and Berkeley Heights VFW Post. In 2023, Angelo was honored as the Grand Marshal of the New Providence Memorial Day Parade and alifetime member of the hstorical society.

Documenting Change in New Providence

August's display at the New Providence Memorial Library was titled "A Pictorial History of the Four Corners of New Providence." Each shelf represented a corner in the center of town, showing photos and descriptions of what it looked like over the years. Many people are surprised to discover what was on the corners.

Did you know there once was a hotel where Citizens Bank is? This hotel was before the Center Stationers and before the gas stations were there.

Diagonally across the intersection was the town general store, which was also the post office, local Red Cross, and town meeting place before the parking lot and video screen were erected.

Even the Presbyterian Church property has changed over the years. It once supplied the location for the first school, league baseball field, liberty pole, and the first fire ring.

This display will appear at the Lantern Hill retirement community during October.

If you want to learn more about our town's history, you can visit the Mason Room archives every Tuesday morning from 10 am to noon, or the second Saturday of the month from 11 am to 1pm.



2025 Society Scholarship

The New Providence Historical Society is proud to announce the 27th recipient of our annual scholarship is New Providence High School student **Lauren Venturella**. Lauren shared with us her passion for preserving history and her desire to carry it with her into the future. Lauren is headed to Wellesley College, where she will major in International Relations. We wish her the best of luck on her future endeavors. Our annual scholarship is one of many ways the historical society engages with our community.



New Providence Historical Society Officers & Trustees

President	Rick Anderson
Vice President	Maria DeLuca
Treasurer	Kerry Lee
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Membership	John Sponauer
Website & <i>Turkey Tracks</i> editor	J.R. Bale
Social Media	Maria DeLuca
Recording Secretary	Audrey Keebler
Corresponding Secretary	Chris Tallone
Museum Docent Coordinator	Elizabeth Ryan
Display Coordinator	Maria DeLuca
Accession Volunteer	(Vacant)
Publicity Coordinator	(Vacant)

Trustees

Rick Anderson, J.R. Bale, Maria DeLuca, Jeff Grob,
Robert Keller, Kerry Lee, John Sponauer, 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.



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Memorial Library
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