



Turkey Tracks

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner meeting of the New Providence Historical Society will be Thursday, April 15th. Our speaker will be Mr. Charles F. McSorley an independent historian. Mr. McSorley is a graduate of Rutgers University with a major in American History. His presentation will be a lecture and slide show covering the suffragette movement with a brief biography of New Jersey native Alice Paul. Ms Paul efforts through parades, protest marches, mass arrests and hunger strikes that helped galvanize the suffragette movement in the early 20th century. The 19th amendment giving women the right to vote was passed in 1920.

Mr. Mc Sorley is a member of the American Political Items Collectors, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the collecting and preservation of American political memorabilia. He is also a deltiologist (a collector of old post cards) and will have a display of items at the dinner.

The dinner will be held at the Berkeley Plaza, 735 Springfield Avenue, Berkeley Heights. The evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Berkeley Plaza's Grand Buffet at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$30.00 per person. To make reservations, please send your check to the New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974 by April 9. For further information please contact Earle Pearson at (908) 464-6526 or John Bale (908) 665-1065.

Proposed Trustees – Class of 2010 - John Bale – Carol Smith – Betty Newell

“Suffragette Movement”

We women must
stand together



President's Letter

This year marks the 290th anniversary of the settlement of Turkey, New Jersey. The name was derived by the area have an abundance of wild Turkeys in the local. First settlers to arrived in Turkey were Peter Willcockie (Wilcox) and John and Phoebe Badgley. At that time Turkey was part of Elizabethtown which was part of Essex County. Most of the early colonists who bought land came from Long Island and were descendants of Welsh, Scottish or English Pilgrims.

Peter Wilcockie is reported to have come from England. He settled in a area called Peter's Hill, later called Feltsville, than Glenside Park and now the Desert Village. The Badgley's were a little further northeast of Willcockie and in present day Mountainside.

Both families set up saw mills on the Blue Brook stream which runs through the reservation. They were both successful and supplied lumber to Chatham. The road to Chatham was called River Street (today South and Passaic Streets) and intersected with Turkey Road (Springfield Ave.) This marked the center of Turkey which the residents began to call this intersection the four corners. These roads originally may have been trails used by the Leane Lenape Indians.

Mr. Mc Sorley has been our speaker previously. The first time in 2003 when he spoke on Mathew Brady the Civil war photographer, and again in 2004 speaking about Theodore Roosevelt. Both of those evenings were very entertaining. And we look forward to a interesting presentation.

We will have displays in the New Providence Memorial Library display case for the months of February and March. The February display is in honor of scouting and this year is its 100 anniversary of being founded by Lord Baden-Powell in 1910. March's display will be of antiques from the Saltbox museum. This will also co inside with our fourth Annual Antique and Collectibles Appraisal show on March 6th

Our Treasurer Tom Kelsey is moving to Center Harbor, New Hampshire to be closer to his children. He has served as a member of the society board of trustees for the past 10 years, the last 3 years as our treasurer. We wish him and his wife Liz well in their new home in New Hampshire. He will be missed at our lawn sale where he has served as our Buch Meister General (Book Master). We are in need of a replacement for Tom to be our Treasurer. Anyone who is interested, please contact John Bale.

To maintain the Saltbox Museum schedule of being open on the first and third Sunday of the months from March to November, we will need volunteers to be docents for the hours of 1 P.M. to 3 P. M. It is only for a two-hour period on those Sundays. Without volunteers, we will not be able to maintain this schedule. If anyone is interested please contact John Bale

On December the 15th we had as our guests Den 8 of Pack ____? visited the Saltbox Museum to learn about the local history as a requirement of the cub scouts. We are always pleased to have these groups visit the museum to learn about New Providence.

John Bale
President

Borough's Official Seal: Turkey or Gazebo?

A presentation was made at a council meeting in November of 2009 by the president of the society.

The official seal is no longer used on the Borough letterhead, Website and Channel 37. The reason given is that it is easier to explain the gazebo than the official seal. The official seal contains the Presbyterian Church, Salt Brook and The Turkey, all of which is significant to the history of the New Providence. The fact that people inquire about the symbols in the seal seems to indicate that they are interested in the history of New Providence. The Historical Society would be only too happy to explain the history of these symbols to them as it is our mission to preserve and perpetuate the history of New Providence.

The Historical Society feels that by not using the official seal, the history of the New Providence is being over looked. In 2010, the borough will have been settled for 290 years a most historic event. The official seal of the borough we feel is more representative of the long history of New Providence than the Gazebo.

The official seal is shown on the signboards when entering the borough, and the shoulder patches on the three uniformed services, Police, Fire and EMS, the letterhead of the Board of Education as well as on the wall in the Council Chambers. It appears that the borough has two seal that are being used. By not being consistent it is causing confusion as to which seal is representative of New Providence. The official seal was the one selected by residents of New Providence in 1960. At that time three versions were submitted for the residence to pick. It does not seem that the residences were consulted when the seal was dropped from the Letterhead. Website and Verizon's Channel 37, for the one they **did not** vote for.

I am submitting several sheets of partitions signed by residents of New Providence who feel that the Official Seal should be returned to the Letterhead, Website and Channel 37.

The Official Seal

The design of the seal as reported in the Dispatch of May 12, 1960. Samuel Jones mayor at that time asked Milton Anderson owner of a graphics design studio in New York City, as well as being the president of the Board of Education, to design a seal incorporating the turkey, Presbyterian Church and the Salt Brook. He accepted the request, Mr. Anderson came up with three designs two of which used the three elements, and the third design substituted a tree in place of the church. The three designed were exhibited at the high school, with students voting for their favorite. Resident were encouraged to write to Borough Hall to register their opinions. Most likely the seal was officially adopted by the Borough Council the seal will be 50 years old this year.



Necrology

Paul Chovan

Paul was the husband of Ann Chovan past president of the Historical Society. He was 89 years old, died on Oct 2009 in Sun City, Georgetown Texas. He was buried the Central Texas Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Killeen, Texas. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps as a corporal in the South Pacific during World War II and was recalled to active service during the Korean Conflict. Paul is survived in addition to his Ann his wife of 63 Years, by three daughters and five grandchildren. He was a member of the American Legion Post in New Providence as well as the Summit Old Guard.

Katherine “Kitty” Rummler

101 years old, a long time member of the Historical Society. She was a graduate of Cornell University and was an accountant and had been employed by Morgan Guarantee Trust Co. She had lived in the same house for nearly 90 years.

Changing Face of New Providence

Spring Cleaners newly opened in the Adams shopping mall in the former photographer's store

Minsi Asian Restaurant opened in the former TBYC store 1330 Springfield Avenue.

Gymnastic School opened in the building where the Summit Speech School for the Hearing Impaired on Central Avenue is located.

Summit Medical Group billing center has located in the old W. B. Wood office on Floria Avenue.

New Jersey Network Sharing (organ and tissue awareness) opened in the Aircast building on Central Avenue.

Scraptasia located at 1310 Springfield Ave. has closed.

In the Village Shopping mall...

Score Educational Center has closed

Hollywood Tan closed Jan 2, 2010

From Our Files

Who was Nicolaas Johan Willem Eicholtz?

He was born in Rotterdam, the Netherlands 23 March 1888. He was awarded L. A. (Landscape Architect) degree upon completion of his University study in Holland. Eicholtz came to the United States in 1914. He had no intention of staying in America, having come to observe practices here in the landscape field. He practiced his profession on Long Island, the West coast and Arizona before settling in New Providence in 1920. He started the Murray Hill nurseries on Mountain Avenue with three other partners, Mr. Rebel, Mr. Neimans and John Marcel. They were all trained gardeners from the Netherlands. Mr. Neimans came as salesmen for the tulip bulbs as well as other plants. He lived in a house opposite Air Reduction (Linde Corporation) this is now part of the Lucent Labs. Mr. Rebel was the first to pull out of the business because there was not enough income for four partners. Mr. Eicholtz severed as the Mayor of New Providence from 1932 to 1946. He started in politics by being appointed to the Board of Health by Mayor William D. Clark and then went from one appointment to another. He severed as chairman of the road committee which worked on state aid plan. Each year a section was completed starting with mountain Avenue, then Union Avenue, Livingston Avenue and Marion Avenue. As a councilman, he served under Mayors Clark and Rush Newcomb who he succeeds as mayor. We have a park which bears his name as well as a street. The park was set up in 1935 along Passaic and Commonwealth Avenues. It covers a site of 22 acres. His wife was Ora Wellborn. After leaving the mayors office in 1946 he will continue as Union County Superintendent of Shade trees. When he immigrated to the United States, he came as **Eicholtz**, but changed to **Nicholas John William Oakwood**. Eicholtz translates into English as Oakwood. He did not use the name Nicholas because he did not like that name. John Oakwood died in 1947. He lived at 641 Mountain Ave. where he had his nursery. He was a member of Overlook Lodge No. 163 F. & A. M. of Summit.

In our file we have a picture of Mayor Oakwood accepting a flag from Mrs. I .Siegmann which was to replace the flag the Borough was flying which was deemed in need of being replaced. This was done on January 1, 1946. The flag was given by the Pride of New Providence Chapter of the Daughters of America,. (**This group is not related to the (DAR) Daughters of the American Revolution.**) The Daughter of America was the women's auxiliary to the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. The Junior Order had a chapter in New Providence and would meet in rooms over the General Store which was located at the corner of South Street and Springfield Avenue. Today this the parking lot for The Bank of America. After receiving the flag the mayor issue a resolution signed by the Borough Council, Arthur B. Harms , Robert H. Badgley, Fred A. Lorentz, Herbert D. Taylor and Elsworth R. Hansell and Mayor Oakwood on January 10, 1946. This resolution has just recently been acquired by the Historical Society. It was in the possession of a man in Myrtle Beach, S. C. who was going through items he had acquired over a period of time and was willing to return it to its home New Providence. He initially contacted Peggy Brodeur, Coordinator of the New Providence Senior Center who forwarded the information to the Society of its whereabouts and who to contact about recovering it for New Providence. We thank her for this information.

New Providence Tombstone Inscriptions

Burials Methodist church

Crane, Anne, b April 12, 1822, d April 25 1891

Crane Elizabeth, (see Samuel T. Day).

Crane, Isaac, wife Anna; dau Mary

Crane, Isaac, b Oct 1793, d April 23, 1864; wife **Mary** d Aug 13, 1822 in 29th Yr.:
(2nd) wife **Anna Parrot**. b Aug 11 1790, d Jan 1, 1867: son **John** , “son of **Isaac**
and Anna,” b May 16 1827, d Mar. 31, 1859.

Crane, Joanna (see Lewis A. Bedell).

Crane, John , d July 18, 1843 aged 79-1-8; wife **Betsey**, d Mar 9, 1828 age 53 yrs;
son **Jonathan M.**, d Aug 30 1810 aged 17-2-0.

Crane, Joseph, d June 3, 1829 aged 58-10-18 wife **Sarah**, d Aug 31, 1825 in 47 th yr. ;
dau **Hannah** , d Aug 27, 1825 aged 21-4-5.

Crane, Joseph W. *; wife **Harriet**, adopted dau of **Abigail Megie** and dau of **Ezekiel** and **Mary**
d Oct 16, 1838 aged 20-8-5.

Crane, William, b Jan 30, 1820, d Mar. 27, 1892; wife **Mary E. Cole**, b Dec. 15, 1827, d Feb 9, 1914,
On same stone: **Theodore F. Crane**, b 1852, d 1934.

Crane, Thomas P., b 1865, d 19-- (evidently still alive in 1939); Wife **Alemena**, b 1834, d 1937

Crane William B. * ; wife **Deborah** (her stone is broken and the name is obliterated, but it can
be identified by the Diary of Betsey Crane who states that **Deborah**, wife of **William B.**
Crane died Aug 15, 1825, d Aug 15, 1825 aged 23-8-15; dau **Hetty**, d Aug 24, 1823) aged
2-11-28.

Cross, Horton (see Horton Gross)

Curtis , Asa F. ; wife **Martha ;** dau **Caroline H.** d Nov 21, 1850 aged 3-3-7.

Davis (stonecutter, see **Phebe R. Mooney**).

Davis-Youngs. (Monument with no names)

Day, D. W.*; wife **Caroline***; son **Squire Parrot**, d Dec. 9, 1876, aged 27.

Officers, Board Members, and Committees

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| President | John Bale |
| Vice-President | Betty Newell |
| Corresponding Secretary | Carol Smith |
| Recording Secretary | Marion Bale |
| Treasurer | Thomas Kelsey |
| Displays | Sarah Jane Regan |
| | Anne Powers |
| | Barbara Pape |
| | Molly Whitney |
| Docents | Rick Anderson |
| Mason Room Volunteers | Betty Newell |
| Program Chair | Thomas Kelsey |
| Dinner Coordinator | Earle Pearson |
| Members-at-Large | Patrick Anelli |
| | Ruth Nitti |
| | Barbara Pape |
| Turkey Tracks | John & Marion Bale |

Museum Hours

March to November
 First & Third Sundays
 1 PM to 3 PM
 Also by appointment
 Telephone
 908-665-1034

Mason Room Hours

Tuesday Mornings
 10 AM to Noon
 Also by appointment
 908-665-1034

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

