



Turkey Tracks

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 47 No. 1

Issue # 113

March 2014

Annual Dinner Features “Revolutionary Detective”



Photograph by J.R. Bale

Our April 24th Annual Dinner will feature historian, Robert Mayers, author of *The War Man* and *The Alison-Mayers Family History*. His upcoming book, *The Forgotten Revolution*, will explore many of the vital, but lesser known, events of the American Revolution, many of them quite local. You can learn more about Bob Mayers at www.revolutionarydetective.com. Copies of his book, *The War Man*, will be available for purchase.

The event will begin at 6PM at the Berkeley Plaza, 735 Springfield Avenue in Berkeley Heights. The cost is just \$32 per ticket for hors d'oeuvres, dinner and a stimulating speaker.

President's Letter

This is the first *Turkey Tracks* published since I became President of the Society in October. I'm thrilled to be working with a group of people so dedicated to New Providence's past, present and future. In particular, I'd like to thank past President, John Bale, who led the Society for 13 years. We are also grateful to Rick Anderson, who has tirelessly maintained the Salt Box House and grounds, and has now taken on the position of Vice-President.

This past fall, we had a number of successful events. In October, Nolan Asch gave an insightful talk on our most unsung Founding Father, Alexander Hamilton. In November, we had an art exhibit and sale, honoring the late New Providence artist, Bob Enlow. (Many of his works are still available for purchase from the Society.)

We tried to have a Holiday Open House back in December, but Mother Nature had other ideas. As we all know, it's been a rough Winter, So, we've rescheduled. Come and celebrate the coming of Spring with us with an Open House at the Salt Box House on April 6th, from 1 to 3 PM. Refreshments will be served.

As you read on the cover, we're having our Annual Dinner on Thursday evening, April 24th. Please join us for hors d'oeuvres, dinner, great conversation, and a dynamic historical speaker.

All this is followed on May 3rd by the Salt Box Fair, with a rain date of May 10. This year, we plan to include a magician for the children. As usual, we are looking for donations for our Treasure Tables: New and like-new items, antiques, tools, jewelry, pocket books, biographies, histories. However, we have found in the past that certain items don't sell, like text books and children's toys.

You can read all about these in this issue of the *Turkey Tracks*. Other initiatives include technologically upgrading our archival systems, while maintaining the personal touch in the Mason Room.

The Society continues to need people to volunteer as docents for us to be able to have our museum open to the public on the third Sunday of the month, from April to November. We were trying to have it open more often, but lacking the volunteers, we have cut back.

As you can see, there's a lot happening at the Historical Society this year. We now have a website, which can be found at www.newprovidencehistorical.com. Already inquiries for historical information have arrived via the "Contact Us" page. We will be using the site, along with our Facebook page, to keep people apprised of Society news on a much more frequent basis. We encourage everyone to participate and contribute. I look forward to seeing you at some of the upcoming events.



Linda Kale
President

The Docent's Challenge

How well do you know your history? Just to test you, we've set forth "The Docent's Challenge." Each issue, we'll present you with an artifact, a photograph or illustration, and see if you can identify it. If you need help, you might be able to find a clue in the Salt Box Museum or the Mason Room at the New Providence Public Library.

We start off with the artifact pictured to the right. Believe it or not, this is an electric device. But what does it do? This object is part of the collection in the Salt Box Museum.

Any idea what this is? You can post your guesses in the Docent's Challenge page on the website at www.newprovidencehistorical.com. You might even find some hints.



2013 Historical Society Scholarship Awarded



Isabella Wilson is the recipient of the 2013 New Providence Historical Society Scholarship for \$500. The scholarship program awards students who either plan on majoring in history or who have supported the preservation of history, particularly that of New Providence. The Scholarship is given in memory of one of our founding members, Mr. Harry Newell who was a member of the Society for forty-six years.

Isabella volunteered for two years in the Mason Room, inputting data into the archive's computer. While she has an appreciation of historical preservation, she is planning to enter the healthcare field. We wish her the very best.

Welcome to Our New Members

Louise Smith, New Providence, NJ
Kerry Lee, New Providence, NJ
Robert Bashford, Newark, DE

Necrology

Ann Chovan, 90, former President of the New Providence Historical Society, passed away on January 29th. Ann became President in 1987 and served for 13 years. This was a dynamic period for the Society. During her tenure, she and the board worked five years pursuing the state's permission to put an addition on the Salt Box Museum. In addition, she also worked tirelessly to plan, fund and construct the archival room. Now designated, the Mason Room, it stores photographs, artifacts and documents that are still in demand today. In the year 2000, she and her husband Paul moved to Austin, Texas, to be near their daughters. Even though she moved away from New Providence over a decade ago, her work with the Society is still appreciated.

Abraham Zuckerman, 89, of Livingston, NJ, passed away on December 12th, 2013, Mr. Zuckerman was a Holocaust survivor, and was on the now-famous Schindler's List. He immigrated to the United States in 1949. He, along with fellow survivors, Isak Levenstein and Murray Pantirer, formed LPZ Associates, a real estate development company, which built houses in New Providence and other communities.

In honor of their benefactor, Oskar Schindler, the developers named several streets after him, including Schindler Place in New Providence. They named other streets in honor of Schindler in Berkeley Heights, Bridgewater, East Brunswick, and Brick Township.



Changing Face of New Providence

Prudential Real Estate has moved to a new location, formerly occupied by the old Kress "5 & 10" in the Village Shopping Center.

Starbucks has opened on Springfield Avenue, where Prudential and the former offices of Doctors Zukoff and Hakim were previously.

Dim Sum Villa has opened on Springfield Avenue, in the site formerly occupied by Chens Restaurant, Burger Express, Burger King and Dascoll's Drugstore.

Galileo Restaurant has closed. It occupied the location that previously included the old shoe repair shop and part of McGarth's before the hardware store moved to South Street.



Spring "Salt Box Fair" Set for Saturday, May 3, 2014

The Salt Box Fair is scheduled for May 3rd from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with May 10th as the rain date. This year's fair will include a range of vendors, "Treasure Tables" and a magician. Proceeds from the fair support the Society's scholarship program.

Vendors: Any vendors interested in renting space at \$25 per eight-foot table should contact Linda Kale at kale.linda@yahoo.com.

Donations: Please contact Linda Kale at kale.linda@yahoo.com to arrange for a drop off time for any items to be donated for our Society's "Treasure Tables." We would appreciate having these items by April 26th, so they can be priced in time for the sale. Once again, we need and request your support.

Volunteers: Members, please mark your calendar for baking, pricing, selling, set-up, clean-up and hosting at the Salt Box Museum. Even one hour will be helpful and appreciated.

Membership Renewal Application

Our annual dues run from April 1st to March 31st, our fiscal year. Please fill in the requested information and mail your check to Margaret Maurer's attention at the Memorial Library address, New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. This will enable us to keep our membership and mailing lists current.

Be sure to include your preference for Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. and Mrs.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Email _____

Memberships (Many corporations will match contributions.)

Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business Sponsorship \$25 _____
Contribution \$30.00 _____ Sustaining \$50.00 _____ Life \$125 _____

I will volunteer to help:

Computer _____ Research _____ Museum _____ Lawn Sale _____ Writing _____

Clerical _____ Grounds _____ Restoration _____ House Tours _____

Reservations for Annual Dinner

Berkeley Plaza, April 24, 2014, Cash Bar at 6 p.m. Dinner at 7 p.m.

Number of reservations _____ @\$32.00 for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner, April 11th

Amount of Check \$ _____. Please make check payable to NP Historical Society. Reservations must be received by April 9th. Check for dinner and membership may be combined. Send check to the Mason Room, New Providence Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974, C/O Margaret Maurer.

**New Providence Historical Society
Officers, Board Members & Committees**

President	Linda Kale
Vice President	Rick Anderson
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Smith
Treasurer	Gail Souren
Publicity	Linda Kale
Displays	Sara Jane Regan
	Ann Powers
	Barbara Pape
Mason Room Volunteer	Ruth Nitti
Dinner Coordinator	Earle Pearson
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Membership	Margaret Maurer
Members at Large	Patrick Anelli
	Barbara Pape
	John Bale
	Marion Bale
Turkey Tracks	J.R. Bale



Museum Hours

March to November
Third Sundays
By appointment
Telephone: 908-665-1034

Mason Room Hours

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings
10 AM to Noon
Telephone: 908-665-1034

Website:

newprovidencehistorical.com

The *Turkey Tracks* is also available on the website.



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