

Newsletter of the
Bergen County Historical Society
In Bergen's Attic

Greetings: Our fall season of lectures and programs has been informative and enjoyable to date and there is much more to come as we approach the year's-end

President's Message

holidays. We met jointly

with the **Ridgewood Historical Society** in September and, as an bonus, got a interesting tour of their outstanding collection of Jersey Dutch artifacts from the Saddle River Valley. It is very well done and we encourage everyone to visit their

Returning to our usual meeting place in the hall of the Second Reformed Church in Hackensack for the October lecture, **Doctor Hugh Evans'** illustrated talk on the *Hidden Campaign, FDR's Health and the 1944 Election* was very well delivered and well received. I purchased a copy of his book and highly recommend it. **Beth Potter**, of Haworth, will talk about her interesting work researching house histories on November 18th.

Dave Whieldon has launched the Revolutionary War Roundtable on another exciting season. I was hoping to get out to the Old Hook Inn on Tuesday, November 16th, when **Kevin Tremble** talked about the key role of the Hudson River in Revolutionary War strategy. Hope to see you at a future meeting!

Due to family commitments, I was unable to attend two worthy Society events this fall. The first was **Dr. Lenk's** Walking Tour of the Hackensack Green

on September 26th. He is a walking encyclopedia of local history and always worth the listen, no matter what the occasion or opportunity. Deborah and I were also unable to attend the ceremonies commemorating the 80th anniversary of the **Camp Merrit Monument**, but I understand from talking to people who attended the event on November 7th, that Past-Presidents **John Spring** and **Robert Griffin** were very well spoken. Since our Society was instrumental in erecting the monument, we were proud that John and Bob represented us and explained the significance of Camp Merrit to a new generation. I understand that John Spring was present (as a seven year old boy) at the monument's dedication in 1924, when

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Tavern Nite at the Campbell Christie House

School House museum, located behind the old Paramus Church. We appreciate their hospitality and will continue to reach out to all our friends in the history community.

**21st Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts
& Holiday Tavern Nights**
See page 5 for more information

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General “Black Jack” Pershing spoke. I hope he will write us a description of his memories of that historic event for future publication.

You can read the good news about our continuing success with the Historic New Bridge Landing initiative in another column and I don’t want to steal anyone’s thunder! I proudly sat with a jubilant Bergen County delegation, including **County Executive Dennis McNerney** and **River Edge Mayor Peg Watkins**, when **Governor McGreevey** announced Historic New Bridge Landing as one of the new urban state parks at the Great Falls in Paterson. I thought back over all the years to all the people in our Society who have worked and believed for so long in our goal of winning for Historic New Bridge the proper esteem that this great Revolutionary War battleground truly deserves. For those who drive by the old “North Hackensack” **postal substation on Kinderkamack Road, please note that it has been renamed “New Bridge Landing.”** After 104 years, New Bridge is back on the map! We particularly thank **HNBLP Commissioner Mary Donohue**, of River Edge, for her outstanding efforts in this and other recent notable achievements.

I want to thank our officers and trustees for their friendly support and advice. Our new treasurer, **Sherri-Lee Mix**, is a godsend — I don’t even want to think where we’d be without her. I also appreciate the return of a longtime friend, **Martha Slezak**, who heads our Finance Committee. **Janet Strom** is doing great work as our secretary, handling the incredible volume of incoming mail as

well as preparing and dispensing minutes of our meetings. I am also grateful to everyone who keeps the wheels turning for the Society, week after week, often behind the scenes and without the full credit and appreciation they deserve. I am afraid to begin the litany for fear that I might inadvertently overlook someone, but you have my thanks just the same. We send our best regards to **Joanne Carlino**, **Gail Goldstein** and **Janet Strom’s mother**, with wishes for full and speedy recovery. Joanne has ably and generously done our school outreach program for several years.

We have revised our holiday special events this year, doing what we have always done well but also trying something a little different. **Linda Russell & Companie** will present their Colonial Christmas Concerts on December 11th and 18th. We hope to see all of you who have made this very special piece of musical theater a part of your holiday tradition. It is a great opportunity to meet and to catch up with so many good friends. Thanks to the special efforts of **Denise Piccino** (with a little help from her friends!), we will host our **first Holiday Tavern Nights on December 12th and 19th** at the Black Horse Inn in the Campbell-Christie House! The tavern nights will begin with Linda Russell providing a short (approximately 20-minute) musical presentation on Tavern Lore in the Steuben House. Our guests will then enjoy some light tavern fare to further musical accompaniment and other social entertainments in our newly furnished tavernhouse. Seating for all these holiday events is limited, so please get your tickets now!

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NEW IN THE BCHS LIBRARY!

The new three-volume *DAR Patriot Index*, 2003 edition. This exhaustive compendium, much updated and expanded, is the definitive source on Revolutionary War patriots.

THE DEMAREST FAMILY GENEALOGY

Contributions of family data are still being accepted for the December 2005 edition of the Demarest genealogy. Contact **Nancy Morrison**, The Demarest Genealogical Society, at NMorr1@aol.com or 316 Howard Avenue, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410.



DEP Commissioner Bradley Campbell, River Edge Mayor Margret Watkins, former Governor McGreevey, Mary Donohue, HNBL Commission member, and Robert Griffin, HNBL Commission Chairman.

New State Park at Historic New Bridge Landing

On October 21st, **Governor James McGreevey** announced the **establishment of three new State Parks, one at the Great Falls in Paterson, one to combine several existing park sites in Trenton, and one at Historic New Bridge Landing (HNBL).** The new parks fulfill the Governor’s promise to create at least two so-called urban parks within the state. We regard the new designation of Historic New Bridge Landing as a State Park to be a critical “next” step in our move to make HNBL the outstanding national historic landmark we all know it to be.

While no specific new funding or other newly stated initiatives were offered in the Governor’s announcement, we can see several immediate benefits to the designation. For example, the State continues to be in negotiation with the owners of the now vacant junkyard next to the Campbell-Christie House. The new designation will strengthen our bargaining position, by making it more difficult for a private buyer to counter-offer. Being designated a State Park will also enable us to more fully utilize the professional skills of the Div. of Parks’ staff in Trenton. In addition, there is another privately-owned site in New Milford that we are interested in acquiring, and we hope to re-open negotiations for that property as well.

With state ownership comes the promise of better funding for planning and building a much-needed visitor’s center and other public facilities. Presently, HNBL falls under the jurisdiction of Ringwood State Park, in Passaic Co. We now hope to have our own identity and budget authority within the State Div. of Parks. Further along, we can envision our own maintenance capability, on-site management and administration.

Finally, we think this represents the fulfillment of a long-neglected need for greater attention by the State to the wants of heavily urbanized areas, especially those in the northern parts of the state. HNBL offers a wonderful combination of attributes that appeal both to people’s spiritual needs for outdoor recreation and nature as well as to their more intellectual needs for historical research and education. Both can now be addressed in an effective and comprehensive way by the State. — Bob Griffin

The Black Horse Tavern (Aka Campbell Christie House)

The Tavern is about to turn another corner. Thanks to the hard work of **Louis Fallon, Elizabeth Piccino, Barbara Flurcheck and Denise Piccino**. All of whom spent many hours over 2 weeks – conditioning, staining and assembling the furniture needed to accommodate our future patrons.

There is a lot more to be done. Training for our Christmas tavern nights will be held on Saturday & Sunday–December 5 & 6. **Calling all Docents and Interpreters**. We need your help and serving experience to make our tavern come alive with the atmosphere of colonial Bergen County!!

Elizabeth's notes: New Years celebrations of open houses originated with the Dutch. She recalls her mother and father continuing a tradition begun in their home in Sluys.

They served cookies, honeycake, ollibolen. Toast to the New Year were made with genevre, avocaat, Bisschopswyn (punch), with Boerenjougen and Boerenmeisckes, the young farm boy and girl. Submitted by Denise Piccino.

HARVEST HAUNT, THE 2004 COLONIAL LANTERN TOUR OF NEW BRIDGE LANDING

As William Shakespeare wrote “*The plays the thing*” and so it was on October 30, 2004, an autumn evening with mist rising from the Hackensack River as eighty visitors attended the three Bergen County Historical Society's performances of a “Harvest Haunt”. A better title for these Colonial vignette plays might be “Colonial Lantern Tour of New Bridge Landing,” but no matter. Under the able direction of **Ms. Tina Ishihara** over twenty-five re-enactors in period attire performed for the audience, showing our visitors how perilous life and travel were in Colonial America. Tina deserves three huzzahs for her successful effort in the production and direction of these plays, which brought history alive for our guests.

At the outset, a messenger arrived, carrying a news report of a battle fought in South Carolina only three weeks earlier, fresh news indeed! A friendly inhabitant,



played by Sue Shutte, the curator of Steuben House, volunteered to guide the visitors and supplied them with lanterns as they set out on foot. Our visitors were warned that there were British spies in the area and all matter of rogues about. The Continental Army had a patrol of soldiers in the area.

Lanterns in hand, the intrepid party started their trek, casting apprehensive looks at the menacing trees and bushes. On they went, encountering a wily British spy, a patrol of American troops who ferreted out the spy, a friendly graveyard keeper and his charges, a fierce group of women pirates, an old lady in the woods

21st Annual Colonial Christmas Concerts Saturday December 11 & 18 - 7 & 8:30 pm

Our famous, magical holiday concerts with renown singer of colonial & folk music, Linda Russell, includes candlelit tours of our 3 historic houses. Enjoy the warm outkitchen with hearth-cooking demonstrations & hot mulled cider. Suggested Donation: \$15 (\$12 for BCHS members) \$10 children 5-12 yrs (not suitable for smaller children). Tickets must be purchased in advance. Send your check with 1st & 2nd choice of time & date & a SASE to BCHS Colonial Christmas, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661. No phone sales. Tickets limited. Wear walking shoes. Tickets may also be purchased at the Steuben House, during public hours: Wednesday thru Saturday 10-12, 1-5pm, Sundays, 2-5pm

Holiday Tavern Nights Sunday December 12 & 19 – Starts at 5pm thru 8:30pm

The evening begins at the Steuben House with Linda Russell performing a 20-minute show on tavern lore. Guests will proceed to the Campbell-Christie House for light tavern fare and music. Linda Russell leads the merriment with holiday and tavern songs. Tickets cost \$25 each. Limited to 25 guests each Sunday.

The Society Twelfth Night Party Saturday January 8, 2004 3:00 pm

Join us for an afternoon of celebration and New Year cheer at Campbell-Christie Tavern, HNBL.

St. Nickolas Koekjas Speclulaas (Latin for Mirror)

The dough is pressed into molds and when released the picture is the mirror image of the carving in the mold.

These cookies are a great favorite in Holland and are made for the St Nicolas Holiday, December 6.

Some of the designs reflect a pre-Christian past but most of the molds come in 1 lb shapes of a man and woman, known as the “Sweetheart” and “the Suitor,” also windmills, and of course St. Nicolaas.

1 cup of butter	1/2 teaspoon cloves
1 cup of brown sugar	1/4 teaspoon baking soda
2 cups flour	1/4 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons cinnamon	1/4 cup sour cream
1 teaspoon nutmeg	1/4 cup chopped almonds

Cream butter with the sugar. Sift the flour spices, salt and baking soda and alternately with the sour cream. Add the nuts. The dough will be soft. Divide dough in half. Shape into 2 logs. Wrap in waxed paper and chill overnight.

Slice 1/4 inch thick. Place on cookie sheets about 2 inches apart, as they spread slightly.

Bake for 8 minutes at 375°



DEAREST FRIENDS:

For many years, in a back room of Edgewater's Free Public Library, there stood an aged, brass handled, oak file cabinet, filled to overflowing with old documents. When I first saw it, I was researching a piece I intended to write about Edgewater. Many drawers were filled with old reference material about the State and its environs but one drawer contained some interesting items about Edgewater. Slowly, I opened this stuffed drawer and spotted a tattered folder--simply inscribed *Civil War Letters — Captain Augustus M. Wright*.

With heightened anticipation, I pored over the fragile and faded letters written during the Civil War by Captain Augustus M. Wright, to the Watkins family of Edgewater, NJ. In the dim light, I was fascinated by the story the letters told and was determined to one day bring these letters to the people of Edgewater.

Upon further examination and research, I discovered that the letters were donated to the Library by Katharine Watkins, granddaughter of the recipient of the letters, Charles Watkins.

Katharine Watkins had given the letters to the then Library Director, Anna (Nancy) Bowman in the 1930s (Miss Bowman served the Library as Director from 1927 for over 30 years). At the time, Miss Bowman was arranging an historical exhibit in the Library, and the *Borough News* of February 1930 reported her as stating, "The Library is beginning modestly what we hope will, one day be an historical museum."

There are over twenty letters and notes in the Watkins Collection written by the Captain, his family, contemporaries, officers, and references to Wright from Civil War diaries.

In his letters Wright tells of the horror of war, the endless marches, the privations — lack of food, clothing and sleep — and the courage of his comrades and officers during battle. Captain Wright's mother, sister, and friend Charles Watkins tell the sad story of his wound, death, and his last wish — to be buried in Edgewater.

The letters had to be handled with cotton-glove care and deciphered with a magnifying glass. This work required a full summer of work with frequent time out to consult numerous Civil War histories and historians, reference books, libraries, museums, and battlefields. I also drove to Pennsylvania for a fact-finding trip to the Gettysburg National Museum Park, Battlefield, and Reference Library--to obtain further material on Wright's regiment, and to photograph the regiment's Monument there.

At first, I envisioned publishing a pamphlet or small publication that would contain this first-hand account of Wright's Civil War experience. But, upon further reflection and research I believed a fuller story could be told if I could find out more about the Watkins family of Edgewater, Wright's regiment, Wright's burial place and the Civil War. The inclusion of all this material would result in a 92-page book, entitled *Dearest Friends, A Civil War Soldier Writes to Edgewater, NJ*.

I found Captain Wright's last resting place to be Edgewater's Old Historic Cemetery but noted, too, that the grave was unmarked. Armed with Wright's muster roll information and other data from the National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C., I applied to the Office of Veterans Affairs also in the District, for a

Civil War white marble headstone for Captain Wright's grave — fulfilling his mother's long-ago stated wish, in a letter (included in *Dearest Friends*), wherein she wrote, April 11, 1865, "...at the earliest opportunity I will come north to have a suitable monument erected in his memory..."

When I was told by the Office of Veterans Affairs that the monument could be engraved and delivered in three months time (I made application in December of 2003), I set about seeing if the Borough would undertake enlarging their Memorial Day Celebration in May 2004 to include the dedication of Captain Wright's headstone and also if I could finish and publish *Dearest Friends* in tandem with the Borough's celebration.

With the encouragement and assistance of Edgewater's Mayor Nancy Merse, the Borough Council, Borough Administrator Harvey Weber—and Edgewater's American Legion Farrell-Huber Post 116, and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5420, (who organized the Memorial Day program), a dignified and beautiful ceremony was held in Edgewater's Old Historic Cemetery, this past spring, in honor of all veterans and especially Captain Augustus M. Wright, his headstone being unveiled by members of the two Veteran Posts in the Borough. Afterward, the crowd dispersed to decorate other veterans' graves with American flags, an annual "Flags In" ceremony in Edgewater.

Funding for the printing of *Dearest Friends* was made possible by Edgewater's Free Public Library, donors, and in part by a grant from the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs and the New Jersey Historical Commission, a Division of Cultural Affairs, in the Department of State through grant funds administered by the Bergen County Department of Parks, Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

The book, *Dearest Friends* was released on Memorial Day 2004, and is being sold at Edgewater's Free Public Library, 49 Hudson Avenue, Edgewater, NJ for \$20.00--or by mail, add a dollar for postage.

The book can also be purchased at Borders Book Store, 1642 Schlosser Street, Fort Lee, NJ 07024.

All proceeds from the sale of this book will go towards the cataloging, scanning, and archival care of the Edgewater Library's historic picture collection.

Submitted by Ruth Paci

The A.J. Meerwald Sails the Hudson River Again this Summer

The A.J. Meerwald returned to Alpine Boat Basin again this summer to help raise money for the Bergen County Historical Society.

The Meerwald, N.J.'s official tall ship, is a restored 1928 two-masted 115 foot oyster schooner out of Bivalve, N.J. She arrived July 30 and took around 45 people out sailing on the Hudson on seven beautiful sails.

Organized by **Kevin Tremble, Martha Lieblisch, and Deborah Fisk**, the sails earned over \$2000 for the Historical Society. The Tenafly Nature Center and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions also benefited from the fundraiser.

We even made the society pages of a local glossy magazine!

The guests not only enjoyed a beautiful day on the river, but heard educational talks from the staff of the Meerwald and various speakers knowledgeable about the geology and history of the Hudson River. On Saturday night guests were treated to the bluegrass music of **Rich Rainey and Loretta Meyers**. On Sunday, they heard **Tim Dacey**, Bergen County Administrator, discuss the history of the steamships on the Hudson. Sunday evening's sail featured **Kevin Wright** and his research on the history along the Hudson.

Many thanks to everyone who made this project such an overwhelming success!

Submitted by Deb Fisk

The Question of Indian Castles

by Kevin Wright

MENACHKHASU: A FORTIFIED PLACE

The absence of proof is sometimes mistaken for proof of absence. Never having discovered physical evidence of *Indian Castles* or fortifications in New Jersey, noted archeologists have concluded and routinely maintain that the autonomous bands of Algonquian-speaking peoples, now collectively known as the Lenape, did not build such fortifications. The depiction on a seventeenth-century map of a large village fortified with palisades, associated with the Minisinks who



This illustration from Captain David DeVries' Journal (1644) depicts a Hackensack man and woman. Note the long house just right of center in the background.

inhabited the Delaware valley north of the Delaware Water Gap, is quite credibly explained as the cartographer's misplaced representation of an Iroquoian fortified village. But if such fortifications did not exist among the Minisinks, then why did three Minisink sachems request a small cannon for their fort from Peter Stuyvesant in August 1663?

For, as the Minutes of the Council of New Netherland indicate, the great Hackensack elder, Oratam, appeared at Fort Amsterdam accompanied by Weswatewchy, Meninger and Wemessamy, chiefs of the Menissincks (i. e., Minisinks), on August 15, 1663. These Minisink sachems, speaking through Oratam, stated "that they have no connection with the Esopus savages regarding the present war." They desired peace with the Dutch, "for

they are afraid, that the Sinnekus (Senecas) might kill them." Accordingly, the sachems requested "a small piece of ordnance, to use it in their fort against the Sinnekus and protect their corn." The Director-General responded that "our small pieces of ordnance had altogether been sent off and the others were too large, to bring into their country and that the Sinnekus were our friends as well as they..."

Writing his *Description of New Netherlands* in 1656, Adriaen Van Der Donck mentioned how the Indians fortified "their villages and castles" with "strong firm works, adapted to the places" to protect "against the sudden invasion of their enemies." Villages and towns were often enclosed with such palisaded works, so that large numbers of

people could be protected within such defenses, surrounded by maize lands and woods.¹ Probably describing the Iroquois, Van Der Donck noted Indian castles surrounding "twenty or thirty houses," some of these houses measuring "a hundred and eighty yards

long..." Small castles or forts were also built near native plantations to guard women and children "against the sudden irruption of the small marauding parties of their enemies."

According to Van Der Donck, the Indians usually chose "a situation on the side of a steep high hill, near a stream or river, which is difficult of access, except from the water, and inaccessible on every other side, with a level plain on the crown of the hill, which they enclose with a strong stockade work in a singular manner." Large logs, laid upon the ground and frequently firmed by a layer of smaller logs, served as a strong foundation. Two roughly parallel lines of oak palisades were planted in the ground, one line on each side of the log foundation, with their upper ends being crossed and joined. Tree trunks or logs

were then set into the notch formed near the top of the crossed palisades.²

In his *Geographia Americae*, Swedish engineer Peter Lindestrom stated categorically of the Renappi (Lenape) and related tribes of the Delaware Bay, "they know nothing of taxation and they are entirely ignorant of architecture and fortifications." He stated that only the Minquas or Susquehannocks, an Iroquoian people settled upon the lower reaches of the Susquehanna River, used palisades around their dwellings.³ It is important to understand, however, that when Lindestrom referred to the Renappi or Lenape, he was only talking about six neighboring villages, located on lowland flanking the Schuylkill estuary, settled "under six sachems or chiefs, each one commanding his tribe or people under him, and each with its own peculiar language, being several hundred men strong, under each chief, counting women and children, some being stronger, some weaker."⁴ He was not referring to the many autonomous bands of Algonquian-speaking peoples dispersed in at least three dialectal groups or familial alliances, extending between the head of tides on the Hudson River and the head of Chesapeake Bay.

The documentary evidence changes as one travels north and east from the tidal reaches of the Delaware River. According to report of Johann De Laet, the Sequins were a tribe residing along the Connecticut River near present-day Windsor in 1614. The Sequins cultivated maize and "had a village resembling a fort" for protection against their enemies, the neighboring Nawaas. Speaking rather generally in 1625, Van Wassenaer reported that, in times of war, the natives "fortify their tribe or nation with palisades, serving them for a fort, and sally out the one against the other." Sentinels mounted a tree at the center of the fort "to observe the enemy and discharge arrows."⁵ In 1626, war broke out between the Mohicans and Mohawks; consequently, the Mohicans built a fort opposite Fort Orange. In 1644, "three castles" at Wickquasgeck were "constructed

of plank five inches thick, nine feet high, and braced around with balk full of port-holes."⁶ The place-name *Wiquaeskeck* probably derives from *wiquajek*, meaning "the head of the creek", referring in this instance to the head of the Saw Mill River, near Tarrytown, Westchester County, New York.

AN INDIAN CASTLE AT HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE?

In July 1663, when Oratam, sachem of Hackensack, was asked by the Dutch to sell Old Hackensack Neck, meaning the peninsula between the Overpeck Creek and the Hackensack River now occupied by Ridgefield Park, Bogota and Teaneck, he answered, "that most of the young men of the tribe are out hunting, so that he has not been able to speak with them, but he has talked with the old warriors, who say, that they would not like to sell, preferring to keep a portion of it to plant, for they dare not go further inland for fear of being robbed by their enemies."⁷ Consequently, the Hackensacks sold only the lower half of the peninsula, extending northward to Cedar Lane in Teaneck, which became known as the Kiersted Patent. They moved from Old Hackensack northward, establishing their villages between along Teaneck Path (now Teaneck Road) and the outlet of French Creek into the Hackensack River at New Bridge. *Utenevik*, now Teaneck, literally means "villages." And who were the Hackensacks' enemies living further inland? None other than the

Tantaqua's mark (the equivalent of his signature) on the 1677 deed for the New Hackensack Patent (northern Teaneck) depicts a Tortoise

Tappans, whose family territory included the cultivable river plain north of French Creek in present-day New Milford.

On January 6, 1676, Tantaqua joined Cusquehem, Nechtamcepepaw, Wansougham, Kanagions, Anesachore and Poughquickquarae in the sale of New Hackensack, extending from the bounds of Old Hackensack (Cedar Lane) northward to "a small kill or Vale [French

Creek] adjoining to the Great Indian Field — called the Indian Castle” to Laurence Andriessen (Van Boskerk) & Company. This is a rare reference to a palisaded Lenape fortification, or “castle” in New Jersey. It apparently stood above the Hackensack River in “the Great Indian Field” somewhere south of French Creek at New Bridge.

An upper sandy terrace, overlooking the cove of the Hackensack River, would match Van Der Donck’s description of an ideal site for a defensive works, being the “level plain on the crown of the hill,” situated “on the side of a steep high hill, near a stream or river...which they enclose with a strong stockade work in a singular manner.”

TANTAQUA AND THE LENAPE STORY OF GENESIS

Tantaqua was the last great elder or headman of the Hackensacks. He was listed as a native owner of lands surrounding the tidal estuary of the Hackensack River, from Newark Bay northward to New Bridge, in various deeds dated July 1668, February 1672, January 1676, September 1677, and November 1686. He was listed as a Sackmaker (headman) of the Hackensacks in April 1678. After selling the northern part of Teaneck (then known as New Hackensack) in 1677, he and his kinfolk moved westward across the Hackensack River. His last known residence was on the ground where the Steuben House now stands, which was called Tantaquas Plain in the 1680s. Coles Brook, which enters the Hackensack River immediately south of the Steuben House, was originally called Tantaquas Brook.

According to a journal that he kept of his travels through the Middle Atlantic colonies in 1679-80, Jasper Danckærts, a Labadist missionary, met an old Hackensack sachem named Tantaqua at Danckærts’ lodging in Manhattan. He described him as “a man about eighty years of age, whom our people called Jasper, who lived at Ahakinsack [Hackensack] or at Ackinon [Acquackanonck].” He was the brother of a sakemaker and was accompanied by a young man identified as

a sakemaker’s son. Danckærts’ landlords related that “when they lived on Long Island, it was once a very dear time; no provisions could be obtained, and they suffered great want, so that they were reduced to the last extremity; that God the Lord then raised up this Indian, who went out fishing daily in order to bring fish to them every day when he caught a good mess, which he always did.” Possessing a “great affection for him,” they gave him the name Jasper and considered him their “nitap, that is, my great friend.” Reportedly, “he sometimes got drunk...” In the Sanhican Lenape dialect, “tinteywe” means fire.

In October 1679, Tantaqua explained to Jasper Danckærts a seemingly godless act of creation, taking a piece of charcoal from the fire and drawing upon the floor:

He first drew a circle, a little oval, to which he made four paws or feet, a head and a tail. “This,” said he, “is a tortoise, lying in the water around it,” and he moved his hand round the figure, continuing, “This was or is all water, and so at first was the world or the earth, when the tortoise gradually raised its round back up high, and the water ran off of it, and thus the earth became dry.” He then took a little straw and placed it on end in the middle of the figure, and proceeded, “The earth was now dry, and there grew a tree in the middle of the earth, and the root of this tree sent forth a sprout beside it and there grew upon it a man, who was the first male. This man was then alone, and would have remained alone; but the tree bent over until its top touched the earth, and there shot therein another root, from which came forth another sprout, and there grew upon it the woman, and from these two are all men produced.”

¹Van Der Donck, *Description*, p. 81

²Van Der Donck, *Description*, pp. 80-81

³Lindström, Peter, *Geographia Americae*, (Philadelphia: The Swedish Colonial Society, 1925), p. 206; 241

⁴Lindström, Peter, *Geographia Americae*, pp. 170-171

⁵Wassenaer, *Historisch Verhael*, NNN, p. 80

⁶*Journal of New Netherland*, NNN, p. 281

⁷Since the Tappans were the inland neighbors of the Hackensacks, this reply offers clear evidence that these two bands or affines were not closely affiliated; the Tappans were part of the Minisink superaffine, whereas I suspect the Hackensacks were Sanhicans.

A CENTURY AGO by Kevin Wright

On Election Day, November 8, 1904, Theodore Roosevelt carried Bergen County by 2,657 votes out of 18,269 cast. Republican gubernatorial candidate Edward Caspar Stokes defeated Democrat Charles C. Black.



The Fourth Annual Chrysanthemum Exhibition opened in Trolley Park on the Palisades during the second week of November 1904 with 170 varieties. Superintendent J. M. Hunter, who annually arranged this splendid exhibition, raised 70 varieties.

The first snow fell on Sunday, November 13, 1904. The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company Work commenced work on the erection of new shops at Kingsland at the end of November. The site was cleared for the erection of a paint and coach shop, mill building and power station. A contract was awarded to Nichols Brothers, of Chicago, for construction of an electric transfer table, 70 x 700 feet, to be located between the paint, coach and machine shops.

Boys skating on the upper Hackensack signaled the arrival of cold weather. Others were having the time of their lives catching on to sleighs and stealing a ride. A few days before Christmas, Hackensack stores reported a little better business at this holiday season than for the same time the previous year. The annual Christmas festival of the Cherry Hill Sunday School was held Wednesday evening, December 28th, featuring musical exercises entitled “The Star Of Rejoicing.” Superintendent Ralph N. Voorhis welcomed the crowd and Pastor Duryea spoke on the Christmas Star. The young people recited and rendered their parts admirably and a beautiful Christmas tree pleased the eye. Santa Claus came through the window high above the platform and swinging by a rope to the floor, distributed gifts; every scholar and worker was remembered.

By New Year’s Day 1905, the old tradition of making New Year’s calls

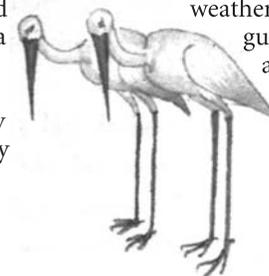
seemed to have gone entirely out of existence. The editor of *The Bergen County Democrat* said of the dying custom: “One hears nothing of it nowadays. For the disappearance of some features of the day everyone should be thankful, but the abandonment of the pleasant custom of calling and renewing acquaintances is to be lamented.”

Governor Edward Caspar Stokes was inaugurated Tuesday, January 17, 1905, in the Trenton Opera House. A blizzard struck Wednesday and Thursday, January 25th and 26th, delaying business and railroad travel considerably and leaving snow several feet deep. Milk trains failed to show for several days.

The first passenger trolley car over the Palisades Park branch of the Hudson River Line ran February 9, 1905, but the road was by no means complete and was opened simply to comply with the terms of the franchise. The birthdays of Washington and Lincoln were observed in public schools.

The Public Service Corporation leased the Gas & Electric Company of Bergen County on March 1, 1905. After a few springlike days in the third week of March, the Hackensack river shed its heavy winter coat of ice and local net fishermen began the conquest of the famous Hackensack smelt and its less aristocratic, but very palatable relative, the sucker. The latter was growing in popularity with fin-eaters who formerly had despised him.

Consequently, large catches of suckers from the Hackensack River found a ready market in New York at about 12¢ per pound. The late arrival of spring weather delayed the advance guard of the smelt by about a week, but



there were reports of fishermen capturing small masses of these delicious pan fish on Saturday, March 18th.

The Public History of the Franklin Lakes Nike Base NY 93/94.

by Jack Goudsward

With the advent of the Cold War and the preconceived threat of waves of Soviet bombers attacking the Continental United States the Nike Weapon Systems were conceived and deployed.

The following was taken from local newspapers and deals with what the public learned about the base during its 15 years of operation. This also shows how the base tried to fit in and become part of the community.

Early in 1954 Army representatives and engineers began making surveys and asking landowners the value of their land and would they be willing to sell. This started a large protest against "An Instillation in Mahwah". Telegrams were sent to the Department of Defense, Rep. Widnall, State Senators, The Board of Chosen Freeholders and Bergen Park Commission condemning the installation.

The land under consideration was located in Darlington and Franklin Lakes. The surveys were centered on the high ground of Phelps Road in Franklin Lakes. The Darlington land was partly owned by the County and Immaculate Conception Seminary. Richard and William Gass along with Edward C. May owned the Franklin Lakes property. There was also the public fear that the base would be dangerous and would adversely affect land values and would ruin the parkland. At that time the army said it would require 20-30 acres for the base that would be garrisoned 24 hours a day by 40 men. (*Wyckoff News* March 25, 1954)

A few weeks later it was announced that after a closed door meeting with the Army the Freeholders started "Condemnation Proceedings to acquire a section of County-owned Park land in Mahwah for the installation of a guided missile station for the defense of the Metropolitan Area." Of the 14 acres of parkland acquired only about 3 acres will be used for the installation. The rest of the

land will be opened to restricted public use in accordance with Army regulations. The army also said that it would probably require 100 acres for the installation.

The Army also put out for bid a construction contract to build the base. The base would consist of a Launching Area and Control Area. The launching area would include of a Guided Missile Magazine, Fuel Storage and Maintenance Facilities. The Control Area will handle Radar to track aircraft and equipment to coordinate the Nike Missiles. Tandy and Allen Construction Co. of Hackensack won the contract with a bid of \$517,500. The contract called for the construction of storage magazines, launching platforms, roads, water system and a power plant. The launch area is located near the property of the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington. While the Radar Installation was located 1000 feet south of the land partially owned by Edward C. May. The Army reported that it took over a year to find an area that "Would cause least disturbance to the Community and fit the defense plan for the Metropolitan Region." They also announced that eighty-seven men would be stationed at the base. (*Wyckoff News* May 13- June-20-August 12, 1954)

As 1955 arrived the Army started to make inroads into the Community. This started off with a talk at the Franklin Lakes Republican Club. A Guided Missile expert from the First Army Anti-Aircraft Regional Command spoke at the meeting. He was obtained through the cooperation of Capt. L. DeVanzo of the Army.

The speaker stressed several topics. The first was that the missiles would only be fired when an enemy is approaching. Second, that the missile would not be shooting down bombers with atomic bombs overhead. The missile is designed to target bombers before they reach their target. He gave guarded information on

how the missile works in conjunction with the radar. The expert explained that the missile explodes on impact or when it reaches lethal proximity. Information was also disclosed that the Nike has an Atomic warhead capable of destroying all aircraft within a half-mile or more of the missile. He went on to describe the control site. It included a combination Barracks and Bachelors Officers Quarters, Administration Building and a Mess Hall. All are one story above ground and made of concrete. The Launch Area contains a combination Barracks and Bachelors Officers Quarters, Missile Assembly and Test Building and a Generator Building for Emergency Power. Three underground chambers that are 28 feet deep, 52 feet long and 28 feet wide for the storage of the Nike. Two will be on racks on the surface while the third is on elevators to bring the missiles to the surface. (*Wyckoff News* March 3 - April 7, 1955)

Near the end of 1955 10 soldiers arrived at the under construction Franklin Lakes Base. They were lead by S/Sgt William Shoemaker. He came with a Medic, one Corp., one Pvt. 1st Class, and six Pvts. They were under the command of Capt. Herbert Anthony. At the time the Military designation of "A" Battery of the 43rd AAA Missile Battalion (NIKE) was given to the base.

(*Wyckoff News* September 22, 1955)

Capt. Herbert L. Anthony was born Sept. 4, 1923 in Berlin N.Y. He went to school in Sidney N.Y. He entered the Army in January 1942 and served in the 386 AAA A.W. BN. at Camp Edwards, Mass. He participated in the Louisiana maneuvers and shipped over seas in January 1944 to England. He participated in the invasion of Normandy and on into Germany. All this was accomplished as an Enlisted man. He received the Bronze Star in World War 2 along with Purple Heart and the Croix De Guerre from France. He was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant on Sept. 23, 1949 at fort Riley, Kansas and then promoted to 1st Lieutenant Jan. 1951 in England while with the 4th AAA A.W. BN. Then on July 8, 1954 he was promoted

to Captain.

Capt. Anthony was the guest speaker at the Franklin Lakes Memorial Day exercises of 1956. His last public appearance was when he addressed the local PTA. He talked about the development of the Nike Missile and then showed a short film dealing with the missile system.

The public too reached out to the men at the base. The Wyckoff Post #83 of the American Legion hosted a dinner and dance at the St. Elizabeth's Auditorium. The high point of the year was the first public open house at the base. Tours of 20 people were lead by Sgt. Clifford Day. It was announced at that time the base would be opened to the public and on the third Sunday of the month from 2 PM to 4 PM. Visitors could bring cameras if they wanted. At this time the base was in full operation and armed with the Nike Ajax missile. The base was under the command of Capt. William L. Sullivan. (*Wyckoff News* December 20 - December 27, 1956)

Capt. W.E. Sullivan was born in Massachusetts. He entered the Army in Jan. 1941 and served in the European Theater in World War 2. He returned to Civilian life in 1945 and was recalled for the Korean Conflict on 1951. He served at B Battery at Packanack Lake, N.J. He then was given Command of the Franklin Lakes base. Capt. Sullivan attended the 1957 Franklin lakes Memorial Day Services as principal speaker along with a Color Guard from the base.

(*Wyckoff News* June 8, 1957)

In May of 1957 the dental Bus arrived at the base. This allowed the stationed personal to attend to their dental needs. Before the arrival the personal had to travel to West Point for treatment.

(*Wyckoff News* May 23, 1957)

The Officers were not the only ones to have contact with the public. Early in 1958 Gary E. Leebeck, a 24 year old stationed at the base, appeared before Magistrate A. Edward Hook. He fined the soldier \$25.00 and \$5.00 cost of court for driving with an improper registration and suspended the fine and leveled a \$3.00 cost of court an a careless driving charge. The Careless

driving Summons was issued by Ptl. John Bockhorn because Leebeck knocked down road and street signs at Circle Avenue and Pulis Ave. Leebeck a native of Wisconsin, stated that he was going too fast to make the curve and another soldier in the front seat fell against him causing him to lose control. (*Wyckoff News* March 6, 1958)

This was not the only incident to involve the soldiers and the law. This incident involved James E. Roberts, 20 of Backler Road Liverpool N.Y. He escaped unhurt after hitting a Utility pole at 216 Darlington Road in Ramsey. Ptl. John Alberse sighted him for driving as fast as 70 miles an hour, blowing a tire and skidding 175 feet then hitting the pole. (*Wyckoff News* September 9, 1958)

The local Government also took an active interest in the base. A safety inspection involving Civil and Military officials, as well as then Franklin Lakes Mayor John I. DeKorte, reviewed the precautions at the base. This was in response to the explosion of 8 Nike Missiles at Leonardo Base that claimed 10 lives in Middletown Township in Monmouth N.J. They were assured that this could not happen at this base. (*Wyckoff News* May 29, 1958)

In 1959 the base started to upgrade the installation with the Nike Hercules Missile. The missile equipment arrived by rail and off loaded by crane at a siding at the Susquehanna Station in Wyckoff N.J. and trucked to the base. The main missile components were shipped to Campgaw Station and convoyed under guard to the base. (*Wyckoff News* April 30, 1959)

The 1960 Memorial Day Parade was a high point for the Base. The soldiers attending the parade brought with them a Nike Ajax on its transporter. After the function a public viewing of the missile was held. At the display it was stated that the Hercules Missile in now at the base and is 4 times the size of the Ajax. From 1961 to 1968 a rifle Squad always participated in the parade. Upon arriving at the memorial they would take part in the firing of the salute to the fallen. (*Wyckoff News* June 2, 1960, June

8, 1961, May 29-June 6, 1962, May 4, 1964, June 3, 1965, May 26, 1966, May .29, 1968)

The base continued to do public outreach programs. Capt. Guy DeChandese, now the commander of the base, gave a talk to the Junior Chamber of Commerce of Oakland. He spoke on Civil Defense and showed a film of the Nike Hercules and Zeus Missiles. He then held a question and answer period. (*Wyckoff News* August 3, 1961)

The year 1964 held another high point for the base. It was at this time that 1st Sgt. William A. Leonard received his first Oak leaf Cluster to his Army commendation Medal. The citation accompanying the metal stated Sgt. Leonard was commended for unusual professional competence, outstanding leadership ability and exceptional outstanding leadership ability and exceptional resourcefulness resulting in the high state of combat readiness for his unit. Battery Commander Capt. George S. Gregory III presented the award. (*Wyckoff News* July 30, 1964)

In 1968 the base personal were again in the news. This time Ronald McCabe, a solder at the base, lost his license for 90 days for speeding. Ptl. Richard Canova clocked McCabe going 95 miles an hour on Route 208. McCabe paid a \$15 dollar fine and \$5 dollars cost of court.

(*Wyckoff News* May 26, 1966)

The base opened to the public for the last time in 1968. On this Memorial Day the public was given a hardy lunch, shown a movie about the Nike and toured the base. Later this year the base was turned over to the New Jersey Air National Guard.

(*Wyckoff News* May 16, 1968, August 22, 1968)

The base closed officially on June 30, 1971. At that time it was the second largest in the country. It was in operation for 15 years. The base land, in Franklin Lakes, for a time reverted temporarily to the General Services Administration. The Mahwah acreage reverted to the county. The personal left and the missiles were removed. After that the base passed into history. (*Wyckoff News* March 11, 1971)

In reality the base was more than the

people knew. It was known as NY 93/94 or RAMSEY/DARLINGTON/MAHWAH. It was known as a 'DOUBLE SITE'. That is a site that has six launch sections and twenty-four launchers.

The base was built around the Nike Ajax missile. They had an altitude of 60,000 feet. Later the base was upgraded with the larger Nike Hercules Missile. This missile had an altitude of >100,000 feet. During the bases, modification between May 1958 and May 1959 the base gained an AN/ FPS-71 as an Alternate Battery Acquisition Radar (ABAR). This was used to detect targets at longer ranges attainable with the Nike Hercules. The base also received the Defense Acquisition Radar known as AN/FPA-16. The base also held a command center along with a number of maintenance and support Buildings. All guarded twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.

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I have several favors to ask. We are looking for someone to handle hospitality at our lecture meetings. We are always looking for docents and general helpers at HNBL to assist with our visitor services. Lifestyles have changed over recent decades and the number of active, participating members has declined. There are never enough hands to do the work and we are grateful for any and every contribution of time and talent. A membership drive is my highest priority. We need your support and value your membership! **Please spread the word and join our very special community of interest.** Remember, the past cannot speak for itself and cannot save itself. Help us extend the lessons of history to another generation.

I hope to see you soon. Best regards, **Kevin Wright**,
BCHS President



Effigy pipe found in Hackensack in 1871

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tending a fire and other adventurers. Finally the visitors arrived at the Campbell-Christie tavern and delivered the written news report to the jovial innkeeper, Todd Braisted, who was so overjoyed at the news of an American victory that he ordered a round of hot cider and fresh donuts to the visitors, on the house, no less. Then friend and foe alike joined our visitors to sing rousing tavern songs as we all celebrated. A happy time was had by all. Huzzah!

Our visitors agreed that they had a fine time! This has been the third year that Tina Ishihara has so ably produced and directed the event and all agreed that it has been the best year yet!

Submitted by Louis A. Fallon

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