

In Bergen's Attic

WINTER / SPRING 2018

**Bergen County,
Where America Begins**

President's Message

Welcome to Historic New Bridge Landing where Americans fought and died for the right of self government. Walk in the footsteps of our Founding Fathers and witness where history was made 241 years ago.

The Bergen County Historical Society is growing at a fantastic rate with memberships and donations exceeding expectations. As the largest historical society in the state of New Jersey, we offer lectures, reenactments and events each and every month throughout the year. We welcome you to join us with family and friends and learn about history in your own backyard.

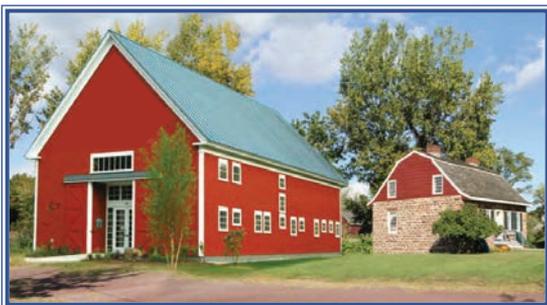
We have a dedicated staff of volunteers who devote their time as docents, fundraisers, speakers, historians and behind the scene support. We are a successful organization because we try harder and we go the extra mile to get things right. The construction of our new museum is a priority. Harvest Moon, a construction firm in Connecticut, has contracted with the BCHS to erect a museum in the vicinity of the Campbell-Christie House.

Over 4,000 artifacts from our collection will be on display for public viewing and have safe storage. Our museum collections

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chair, Deborah Powell and committee, have worked diligently to restore and prepare the artifacts for display. The museum will attract thousands of visitors to Historic New Bridge Landing and provide a center of influence for future generations. The Society has enlisted the services of an attorney to oversee the legal issues involved during museum construction. Fundraising has always been a priority at the Society. We are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit volunteer organization. We are not a government agency. We do not seek public operating grants, instead we rely on public donations, memberships and sponsorships for support. American Legion Post 226, River Edge, N. J. voted unanimously to donate a substantial amount of money to our



Artist rendering of museum by Campbell-Christie House

society. We are grateful for their benevolence. The American Legion Post 272, Norwood, N.J. also contributes to our museum fund each year.

The Society is looking forward to a successful 2018. We are fortunate to have a great support staff willing and able to confront the obstacles before us, namely, building the Museum that meant so much to Kevin Wright, our past president who passed away in October, 2016. Check out our website: bergencountyhistory.org Come join us at the Bergen County Historical Society. God bless all of you and God bless this great country of ours.

Thank You,
James Purcell, Volunteer President

BCHS Volunteers

Volunteerism has been part of the heart and soul of the Bergen County Historical Society since 1902.

Join us at one of our monthly School of Interpretation meetings and find out what it's all about.

Cleaning the grounds.



Welcome to the 18th century with Patty Sayer and Kate Reilly.



Jim Smith gives an evening lantern tour.



Quilt exhibit with Manfred Wagner, Cindy Piano, Anthony Parisi, Heather Miller, Deborah Powell, Patty Daurizio and Peggy Norris.



Sue Braisted, Janet King and Beverly Hashimoto greet visitors.



Jim Purcell runs the annual 50/50 fundraising Raffle. "We raised \$9,500."



Linda Heffernan sells her wares.



BCHS members create traditional Bergen County Dutch holiday decorations for the Annual BCBS Christmas Concerts.



Eagle Scouts Refurbish Historic Blue Markers



There is always something good cooking in the Out Kitchen.

Every event is an opportunity to research authentic old recipes and prepare them with the methods and tools used by early Bergen Co. Dutch in our kitchen. Our menus reflect the season and holiday celebrations. You'll find Andrea Jenner and Patty Daurizio making whig cakes, breads, olie bollen, pies, fried chicken, stews, breadpudding, hand made noodles and Dutch wafers as well as demonstrations of food preservation, natural dyed eggs and candle making.



Andrea Jenner in the Out Kitchen.

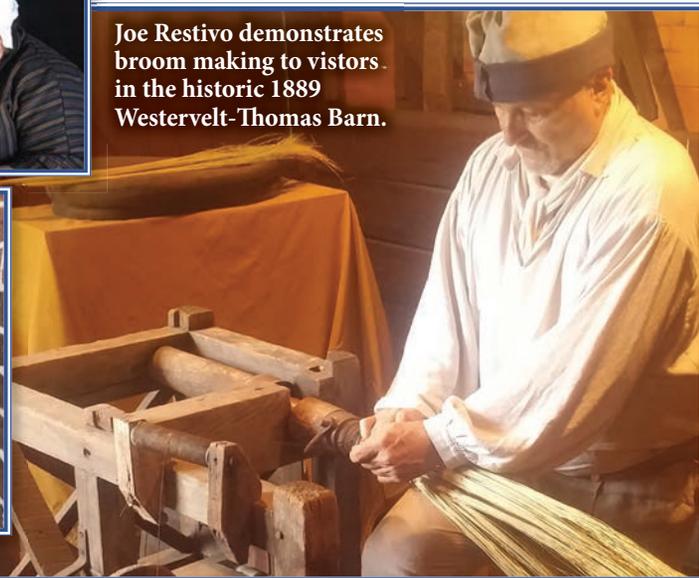
Our Out Kitchen table with SinterKlaas speculaas and meringue cookies, chocolate letters, shortbread, candied nuts, duivekater bread, and fresh pears.



Joe Restivo demonstrates broom making to visitors in the historic 1889 Westervelt-Thomas Barn.



Roger Yaden at the Steuben House.



Interview with Mary Bustillo Donohue

Janet King

Mary Donohue has played an active role in Bergen County, in the Historic New Bridge Landing Park Commission, as well as in BCHS for many, many years. She has long supported the activities of the historical society.

JK: Let's start with your early years, Mary. Where were you born?

MD: I was born in Havana, Cuba. My dad was an attorney. My brother and I went to an American school. It wasn't too far from our home.

JK: So you were already learning English?

MD: Yes. My father and mother were very insistent that my brother and I become bilingual, and trilingual--we also studied French when we were youngsters.

One morning, while we were having breakfast, there was a huge explosion. My father went to the door, and the house across the street that belonged to a colonel in the Cuban Army was gone. My brother and I were very frightened, and I remember that my father said to my mother, "We cannot bring our children up in this atmosphere." We used to visit up North, El Norte, and my father said, "We are moving to the United States." That was the beginning.

We lived in Palm Beach for about two years. The year was 1933, the height of The Depression, and my father decided that New York would have better business opportunities for him. He could no longer practice law because he didn't go to law school here, but he became a well-known executive in advertising. The pharmaceutical companies were just beginning to do important business with Latin America, so we arrived in New York at the right time for his new career.

I went to grammar school, Ascension School, which was near our home in New York City. We lived right opposite Columbia

University. Then I went to Cathedral High School. To get there I had to take three trains—from 116th Street to 42nd Street, then the 42nd Street Crosstown, and finally up the East Side to 50th Street—all for five cents! After I graduated from Cathedral, I went to Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, then in Manhattan, on a full scholarship.

I met my husband Jerry on a blind date when I was sixteen, on April 19, 1942—my first date! I was still in high school, then began college, and for about four years we were just very good friends. He was a junior at Fordham and turned 19 on December 8th, the day after Pearl Harbor. He immediately enlisted in the Marine Corps, then transferred to the Navy Reserve. He began a beautiful career in the Navy. He was discharged as a lieutenant commander. After his discharge, he obtained a master's degree in business administration from NYU. Thank you, GI Bill!

We were married when I was a junior at Manhattanville. My father was distraught that I was leaving in my third year of college, but Jerry promised him that I would finish someday. We moved to Palo Alto because Jerry was going to the School of Naval Administration at Stanford. This was before the end of World War II, but our government knew that military government of the occupied islands in the Pacific would soon become a necessity and was preparing officers. In September 1946 Jerry was assigned to go to Ponape in the Eastern Caroline Islands. Wives of officers were to be allowed to join their husbands once proper housing was available. It took four months to find housing. It was a Quonset hut! Our first daughter was born overseas--the first American child to be born in the Trust Territory of the Pacific. She was a ward of the United Nations until she was 21 years of age.

JK: How long were you there?

MD: We were there two and a half years. It was paradise. It was so beautiful. We

returned to the island on our 50th wedding anniversary, and we took our daughter so that she could see the land where she was born. It was a beautiful journey back in time. We have had a very happy, interesting life. We were blessed.

JK: Can you tell me about the rest of the family?

MD: We had eight children, six boys and two girls—Kathy, Jerry, Steve, David, Mimi, Billy, Eddy and Jim. And there are now 17 grandchildren, and 17 great grands! I am just so sad that my husband isn't here to share this joy. He passed away in 2003. It was a terrible blow. I still miss him terribly. But all the grandkids are great. I have a beautiful relationship with all of them, and the grandbabies—you've never seen smarter little kids.

JK: Eight children must have really kept you hopping.

MD: Eight children. They were wonderful. As a matter of fact, we had wanted twelve children, but we stopped at eight.

And, true to Jerry's promise to my dad, I finished college. I finished at Fairleigh Dickinson, because it was so convenient to our home. I started a PhD at NYU and came within ten credits of receiving it but had to stop, because we had five children in college at the same time and our education bills were very, very high. By this time I was the chairwoman of the Modern Languages Department at Paramus Catholic, and I didn't require a PhD for my work. The PhD was a matter of achievement and personal pride.

I have had a very blessed and happy life. I've had a wonderful marriage, beautiful children, and I loved my teaching career.

JK: How did you get started in local politics?

MD: We moved into this home in River Edge on December 8th, 1952. On December 9th, the mayor came to the door and said, "I've come to register you to vote and to welcome you to River Edge." I thought, "What a wonderful town this is where the mayor himself takes the interest of coming to the home of new residents to register them to vote!" We filled out the applications and then he whispered to my

husband, "Anybody who is anybody in this town is a Republican," and my husband said to him, "We have terrible news for you—we're Democrats!" The next day was Sunday and we told Father Collins what had happened and my husband asked, "How many Democrats are there in River Edge?" and he said, "Jerry, there are only 14 of us."

But that's how we started. We weren't interested in politics, but in good government and

service. That was our goal. While I was at Manhattanville, I had taken a course in geopolitics, and I became interested in governance. I learned that all good government begins at the local level. I served as District Four Committeewoman for the Democrats of River Edge for over 50 years—until about four years ago. Eventually, both Jerry and I became River Edge Council members, and Jerry was elected to the first River Dell High School Board of Education.

JK: So, as a woman, as an immigrant, as a Hispanic, what other positions did you hold?

MD: I was the first woman elected to the Council in River Edge. That was in November 1983. Our town was first settled

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MARY DONOHUE

A Ride to New Bridge

Todd Braisted

History is full of great stories that get passed down from generation to generation. Sometimes the stories can change, get embellished, fit the current times, or just completely made up. What historians try and do is find documentary evidence with corroboration. Trust, but verify. Without proof, some real proof, history basically becomes rumor. But a story can still be a great story, and perhaps someday additional proof will allow us to definitively say it is or is not true. Allow me to introduce Coenrad Ten Eick and his story.

Born in 1758, Coenrad was eighteen years old and a resident of the town of Hillsborough in the County of Somerset, New Jersey when he enlisted in Colonel Philip Johnson's Battalion of New Jersey State Troops, one of five battalions making up Brigadier General Nathaniel Heard's Brigade. With his corps he briefly garrisoned Bergen Point (modern Bayonne) before taking part in the disastrous Battle of Long Island on 27 August 1776, in which his colonel was killed. After taking part in the retreat to New York, he was left sick in Fort Washington where he was eventually discharged and returned home, almost certainly crossing over New Bridge to get there.

On his return home he was liable for militia duty and served various terms of service, his home being within ten miles of the main British Army in New Jersey, then located at New Brunswick. It is at this point we let young Mr. Ten Eick tell his story, as he wrote it in Cayuga County, New York on 25 September 1832, fifty-five years after the event, as part of his application for a pension from Congress for his Revolutionary War service:

"He further declares that about the month of June AD 1777 he enlisted into a company of Light horse at the town of Hillsborough

aforesaid commanded by Captain John Stryker. That said company was raised to serve as long as they should be needed in said war, and that he continued to serve in said company until the close of the war. That although not all the time in active service yet said company was required to keep themselves and horses in constant readiness to mount and move wherever directed at a moments warning. That from the time of said enlistment until the close of the war he well recollects the following incidents that occurred and services rendered and where rendered. That at the time of the battle of Springfield, in the afternoon the British had retired to Elizabethtown. That said Captain Stryker on the next day with his troop was sent out to reconnoiter the enemy's lines, that said company rode through Elizabethtown and returned without any encounter with them. That afterwards the British made an excursion into the neighbourhood of Hackensack when said company was sent out to obtain information as to the situation of the enemys lines and having passed through the village of Hackensack near to what was called the new bridge when casting their eyes to the left on a height of land running a parallel with the road they espied a number of horsemen dressed in British uniform and immediately endeavoured to make good their retreat. That after a rapid retreat of about three miles the two parties met and recognized each other - the party in British uniform proved to be an american party sent out in disguise to reconnoiter the British lines, two of them were aids to Gen. Washington, to wit Alexander Hamilton & another named Witherspoon. They at the same time supposing us to be British troops in disguise until the meeting and recognition as aforesaid. That afterwards and when the British were in Philadelphia as he believes he was stationed at Hackensack, as a guard against the Refugees & Torsys a term of one month."

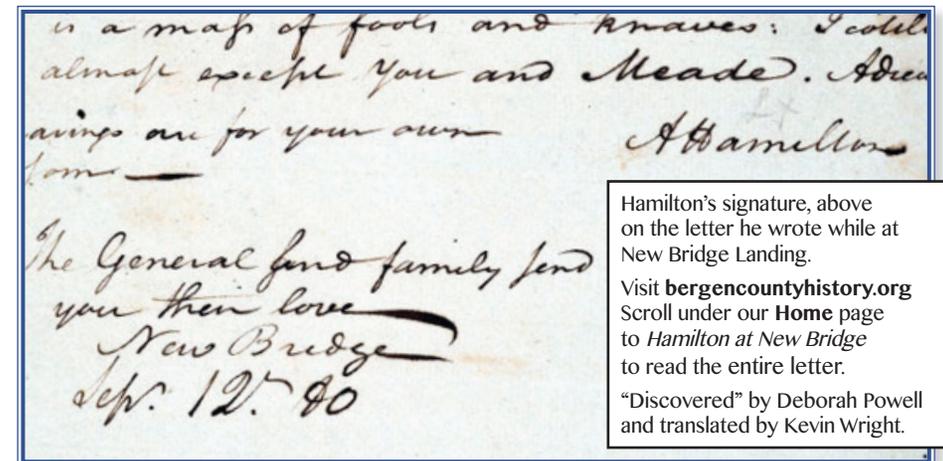
It's a great story! Alexander Hamilton in a British uniform scouting the British near New Bridge, a place where he would be one of General Washington's confidants three years later. But, is any of it true?

Some yes, some no, much we do not know. First, we can say that the unit he belonged to, Stryker's troop of light horse, was a militia unit that did exist at the time. Ten Eick confusingly says the Battle of Springfield (fought on June 23, 1780) when he almost certainly meant the Battle of Short Hills, fought on 26 June 1777. It is after that that things become dicey. From Ten Eick's description, it appears his troop is galloping up Kinderkamack Road through River Edge into Oradell to what is about now Oradell Avenue. Presumably Hamilton and his party are above on the ridge, all through the area then known as Steenrapie, where Washington, Hamilton and 14,000 men of the Continental Army would be encamped in September 1780. One major problem with the story is that there were no British incursions around New Bridge or Hackensack at that time. Some British or Loyalist troops did move out from their base at Paulus Hook on or about June 27th to engage a force of 300 New York Continentals and militia who were raiding Bergen Neck. Washington was informed

of this by a letter written to him the following day by General Israel Putnam in Westchester. Perhaps Washington believed the British were out in force in Bergen County and wanted to investigate? Ten Eick does not mention that they actually saw any British. And who was "Witherspoon?" A James Witherspoon, son of a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a major-of-brigade in the New Jersey Continental Line, but there was no aid to Washington by that name. This gentleman was killed at the Battle of Germantown in October 1777 and there is no evidence he ever worked with Alexander Hamilton. And most damaging, there is no correspondence from Hamilton himself, or anyone else including Washington, discussing the fanciful British-clad reconnaissance. At least that has been found yet.

So: did Alexander Hamilton visit New Bridge in that summer of 1777, dressed in an enemy uniform? Who is to say, other than Coenrad Ten Eick? Chalk it up as another great Revolutionary War mystery.

Coenrad Ten Eick's full pension application may be found in the National Archives and Records Administration, Collection M-804, Pension and Bounty Land Application Files, No. S14667, Coanrad Ten Eick, New Jersey.



Pfc. Anthonie Wendels
40,363
Company K
9th Infantry 2d Division
American Expeditionary Forces
"a man is not dead until he is forgotten"

We remember Anthonia Wendels – or is it Anthonie Wendels? A woman who died in World War I from Ridgewood? A man who died in World War I and was from Syracuse? Or something else.

Stanley Kober, a friend and supporter of Chris Stout's research on Ridgewood soldiers, pointed out a "new" name on the list of WWI casualties from Ridgewood as documented by the New Jersey State Archives - a certain Anthonia Wendels. As unlikely as it seemed, it appeared that we had a female killed in action during WWI. Further research revealed that there was a typo in the NJ Archives file. The proper spelling of the first name is Anthonie (or Americanized as Anthony) - Mr. Pfc. Anthonie Wendels. Telling Anthonie's story begins here, but the index card also obscured the story. His name was spelled wrong. The name of his friend to be notified in case of death is spelled wrong. Despite these handicaps, we were able to reveal the fascinating story of Anthonie Wendels.

Anthonie Wendels was born November 25, 1895 in Rotterdam to a large family (which included his sister Anthonia!). As a young man he was a seaman and had visited the United States. On December 17, 1915, he arrived in New York, working as an Assistant Steward aboard the SS Vestris on the New York to River Plate (Argentina) service. The ship's manifest indicated that he had signed on in La Plata and was signed up for the return trip, but he apparently changed his mind.

Sometime, somehow, Wendels made his way to Bergen County, got an apartment in Ridgewood and had a fiancé, Elizabeth Schaaf, in Fair Lawn (often given as his hometown). Elizabeth was about the same age as Anthonie and was the daughter of

Andrew Schaaf, a grocer, and Sadie Stienstra, both of whom immigrated from Holland about 1891.

In the interim he was apparently in Syracuse, New York and attended the Furman Street Methodist Church. Known as the "Hollander who didn't wait to gain American citizenship before he enlisted", he committed to the army while the "Fighting Ninth" was in the city at Camp Syracuse, situated on the state fairgrounds and in nearby Lakeland. On June 5, 1917, Anthonie, now known as Anthony, formally enlisted at Fort Slocum, New Rochelle, New York, and three months later on September 18, 1917, left New York for Europe aboard the Carmania with Company K, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division of the American Expeditionary Force. They were soon involved in the major offensives at Verdun, the Marne, and Soissons.

From France he wrote to his friends at the Furman Street Methodist Church in early summer of 1918: "I received your lovely letter long ago and know you are looking for one every day, but please don't blame me as we have had no chance to write a letter home in a long time. I hope everybody is feeling fine and dandy. I am the same as always, and hope to be back soon. I am saving some souvenirs for you, and I surely have some of the finest from Kaiser Bill's soldiers straight from the firing line. The boys of the Ninth infantry are doing splendid and bear a name of good soldiership all along the front line. I also have had an eight days pass down to South France and had a swell time."

On July 18, 1918, Anthonie Wendels was one soldier among the 24 French divisions and two U.S. divisions under French command, supported by approximately 478 tanks that launched the Aisne-Marne offensive. This engagement, which lasted for four days, attempted to eliminate the German salient that was aimed at Paris. The allied forces took the Germans by surprise when the troops went "Over the Top" without a preparatory artillery bombardment. The men followed closely behind a rolling mortar barrage which began with great synchronized precision.

Eventually, two opposing assault lines met and individual American units exercised initiative and continued fighting despite being nominally behind enemy lines. Wendels earned the Distinguished Service Cross that first day. The citation reads: "The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Private Anthonie Wendels (ASN: 40363), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company K, 9th Infantry Regiment, 2d Division, A.E.F., near Soissons, France, 18 July, 1918. Private Wendels went forward ahead of his company against a machine-gun that was checking the advance, killed the crew, and captured the gun."

The Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest military award that can be given to a member of the United States Army "for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force." Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor. Wendels also received the French Medaille Militaire (France's second highest honor). That citation provides more detail: "During the action on July 18, 1918, to the south of Soissons, he displayed brilliant qualities of coolness and audacity in attacking a machine gun which prevented our advance. He killed the gunners and captured the gun."

Apparently always in the thick of the fighting, Wendels was wounded on July 18, gassed in early August, and shot in the leg on October 1. On November 4, 1918, Anthony Wendels was killed in action in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in the Aire Valley. He was shot through the heart by a machine gun bullet and died instantly.

Wendels was buried on November 13 in a cemetery near where he was killed. As the Graves Registration Service of the Quartermasters Department of the Army began moving bodies from temporary graves into permanent cemeteries, Wendels was reburied on March 7, 1919 in a

"concentration" cemetery. This cemetery no longer exists, replaced by the large Meuse-Argonne Cemetery. Wendels may have been repatriated to Holland.

Elizabeth Schaaf wrote the War Department in March of 1919 letting them know that Anthonie had not been married and that his nearest relative was his mother. Lena Wendels in Holland began the long process of getting the details of Anthonie's death and burial and received his medals. Widowed before she was married, Elizabeth eventually married LeRoy Hawthorne about 1922.

Wendels' death was one week before the Armistice. Although all the questions are not answered and many military records were destroyed in a fire at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis in 1973, we have pieced together the story of a patriot, who was not a citizen, who showed great bravery, and who lived in Ridgewood in an apartment above a store on Ridgewood Avenue for a time. Although he was remembered and honored in Syracuse at the time of his death, he is not on the roll of honor for Onandaga County, NY, and is not on the memorial plaque in Ridgewood, nor on Fair Lawn's honor roll. A man who was born in the Netherlands, traveled the seas working on board ship, and who spent time in New Jersey and New York, and gave his life as a U.S. soldier, should be remembered. Ridgewood will claim him as a son.



Chris Stout, Joe Suplicki, Afina Broekman and Peggy Norris

Sources - Wendels, Anthonie, records at National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, MO

Wendels, Anthonia, World War I Casualties: Descriptive Cards, NJ State Archives (<https://www.net1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/WWICards.aspx>)
Syracuse (NY) Herald, 6/4/1918, 9/4/1918, 12/14/1918

Wendels, Anthonie, birth record, 26 Nov 1895, Netherlands, Zuid-Holland Province, Civil Registration, familysearch.org

Mary Parish versus the Lager sellers in 19th Century Fort Lee

Lucille Bertram

On September 26, 1879, the body of Mary Parish was discovered inside her Fort Lee home by John Sweeney who lived nearby on the property of Mary's former and late husband Daniel Parish. Mary's home was formerly a barn that had been divided into "two comfortless rooms." Mary was about 60 years old according to newspaper accounts. She had not been seen in almost a week. The local Justice Maurice Fitzgerald along with Constable Mannix entered her house through a window. Fitzgerald called for an inquest to be held that same day at 2pm at Martin Neiser's hotel. Hugh Brosnahan, a local grocer, testified at the inquest that Mrs. Parish came to his store about 6 days previous complaining of a pain in her chest and cramps. She had also complained to Mrs. Sarah Deighen of cramps several days before her death. The verdict of the inquest jury was natural causes due to inflammation of the heart based on the report of Dr. I. P. Latour who examined Mary's body.

Mary was poor but not she was not an unknown who died without much public notice. She was well-known in Fort Lee and Bergen County and often made news worthy of the New York City press. Her activities were covered in local papers, as well as the *New York Times*, the *New York Herald* and the *New York Sun* among others.

What brought Mary to the attention of the press was her war on local liquor merchants and violators of New Jersey's Sunday blue laws. Mary made many enemies in the ten years or so she resided in Fort Lee.

Fort Lee in the 1870s was a small village or set of villages. There were about 400 dwellings in the various parts of the village in areas designated as Coytesville, Pond

Park, Taylorsville and Irishtown. Dr. Thomas Dunn English, a poet, lawyer and physician who lived in Fort Lee during this period, wrote about the place in two-part article that appeared in *Appletons' Journal* December 9 and December 16, 1871. English described Fort Lee as "a great resort for excursionists during the summer... reached by means of steamboats running from Spring Street and Summer Street docks." Four boats would come up the Hudson and could bring as many as three thousand people on a holiday or Sunday.

The *New York Herald* of September 5, 1870 noted that Germans like good lager but cannot get it at Fort Lee. "The most beastly lager that ever was known is dispensed at some of the places in this section." The same newspaper in an earlier article mentioned other interests that brought people to the town, namely picnicking, billiards, bowling, target shooting and of course the view.

"Fort Lee has swings - but they also swung lager, alcohol, that indoctrinating agent pursuing the blood to the surface of one's cheeks and to the very tip of one's nose."

"The plain hard, indisputable fact is this, men sometimes get drunk at Fort Lee..."

What brought Mary Parish notoriety was her aversion to the sellers of lager-beer. When describing the Sunday excursions of New Yorkers to the shores of Fort Lee, the *New York Times* referred to the presence of the numerous Lager-beer establishments. In the local newspapers of the mid-1870s to almost the end of the decade Mary Parish (sometimes called the widow Parish) is reported frequently at the Bergen County courthouse in Hackensack objecting to the licensing of one or more of Fort Lee's saloon keepers. Very seldom does she appear to have been supported by the local temperance organizations which were also active in Bergen county. Some of the men and women she raised objections to were well-known Fort Lee names.

The Bergen County Democrat of August 24, 1877 reported that Mrs. Nieser of Fort Lee had died and that she had been a victim of Mrs. Parish's accusations. That newspaper also reported that Mrs. Parish and Mrs. Harriman who had been a "good Samaritan" to Mary had a falling out and Mrs. Harriman had been held on \$500, which was posted. The Democrat appears to have had a more negative view of Mrs. Parish and her activities then did the *Hackensack Republican*.

The *Hackensack Republican* of August 28, 1878 printed a facetious piece about Mrs. Parish and her enemies:



NIESERHOUSE

That Telephone.

A scene at Fort Lee early Sunday morning.

Glass-ore-"hi! There, Man-ax! I see 'friend Parish' five miles down the road, com-in' this way, shut up shop, quick; watch 'er and report to me."

Great stampede on Saturday night of loafers from "Bluff." The slamming of doors and shutter heard.

Man-ax,-"Oh! He! Glassy, how did she ever discover that we had a telephone at work here? That will spoil this little game. You watch who comes from Hackensack, and I'll see who goes over to Court. Keep it going until after Court. No strange constable shall serve subpoenas here, we want that business kept in the ring, known as the 'Good Tiplers,' the valiant knight of 'the tower, (the last two words translated from the French) President. Lark

Mrs. Parish did have her admirers. The Bergen Index, July 17, 1878, quoted its Fort Lee correspondent "She has saved some of our leading men from going

down to a drunkard's grave. She has made intemperance disgraceful."

The *Hackensack Republican* of December 12, 1877 reported that Mrs. Parish objected to the application of Charles Dingle for a tavern license. She complained the application was signed by persons who signed other applications, that Dingle's place was open on Sunday, that women in the neighborhood went there and got drunk and that it was a public nuisance. The newspaper sided with Mrs. Parish who the paper declared "gave indubitable evidence that the place was a public nuisance." The court, however, granted Dingle's application. The *New York Times* of May 10, 1878 reported that Charles Dinkle (sic) had been arrested four times because of Mrs. Parish but had been let off each time.

Mrs. Parish, Mrs. Dempsey, Miss Dempsey, Master Dempsey and Thomas Roche objected to Alonzo Taylor's license application. They

SCHLOSSER'S CLUB HOUSE CIRCA 1880



all testified to "general disorder, rioting and law-breaking which characterized Taylor's place." Justice Fitzgerald and others testified on Taylor's behalf. They stated that the characters of

Mrs. Parish and Mrs. Dempsey were "bad, very bad." The court granted the application but warned Taylor to be careful and suggested that some of the people who frequent his place should be discouraged from doing so.

On June 11, 1877 the *New York Times* reported that Fort Lee, through Mrs. Parish's efforts was now a strictly total abstinence place on Sunday and almost so on weekdays. How had she accomplished this? The Times reported that "Mrs. Parish's first step was to study the temperance laws of New Jersey, which it would seem she has completely

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Kevin W. Wright passed away October 13, 2016 surrounded by his family. He had kidney cancer that had spread to his lung, liver and spine, followed by a stroke.

Kevin was a passionate historian, lecturer and author, championing the history of NJ, particularly Bergen and Sussex Counties. His 30 years of writing included Hudson's encounter with the New World inhabitants, the Morris Canal, the iron industry, histories of Newton, NJ, Bergen County artifacts, interpretive, marketing and tourism issues, numerous articles and presentations and planning and visioning documents. He retired in 2008 as a Regional Historic Preservation Specialist for the Park Service in the DEP. His leadership at Historic New Bridge Landing transformed the site into a heritage destination. As volunteer President of the Bergen County Historical Society, he advocated for a new museum building at Historic New Bridge Landing, which in the final planning stages. He pushed for the inclusion of Bergen County into the Crossroads of the American organization when it was originally excluded.



He visioned and named the Spirit of the Jerseys, a DEP state-wide parks event. With attention to detail, he found two talented seamstresses to sew all by hand two Hopkinson Flags for display in 2012. He also served as president of the Sussex County Historical Society. In 1985, he found a document in the state archives on the boundary dispute between NY & NJ in time for the Statue of Liberty's 100 year birthday and connected NJ to a very positive image, all for the price of a quarter. Well-connected marketing directors were envious.

David Whieldon Up until shortly before he passed away, Dave chaired the popular American Revolutionary War Roundtable, a monthly dinner-history lecture program that meets in Westwood. He was active in the Roundtable for 50 years and was able to find interesting speakers month after month. He was a member of the West Point Chapter of the Company of Military Historians and a BCHS Trustee Emeritus.

Through the 1980s and 90s, he worked on restoring some of the BCHS Blue Markers that are located throughout the county. The BCHS marker near the corner of Soldier Hill Rd and Kinderkamack in Oradell commemorates the September 1780 Steenrapie Encampment. Dave liked to maintain a French and an American flag

at this location, honoring Lafayette who had his headquarters nearby in 1780.

Dave is remembered as "A Great man", "a true gentleman in every way", "a lovely gentleman", "A true gentleman and tireless promoter of history", "Dave was indeed a gentleman and certainly kind hearted, He did much to keep the round table going, as well as promote the BCHS. I will miss him very much." "He was a truly kind person, generous person and will be missed."

Dave died March 22, 2017, 88 years old. Retired since 1996 from Medical Economics Co., then located in Montvale, NJ, he had worked as a writer and senior editor for several magazines circulated to physicians and to data-processing managers.

Whieldon served for 18 years as an adult Boy Scout leader, including a stint as

Historic Preservation Specialist John Mills was observant when he said "Kevin was a great researcher and constant promoter and defender of New Jersey's heritage and New Jersey historic sites. As he was usually at the forefront he also took the animosity from those who would demolish our history. Historic sites on the whole are better off due to his dedication. He was a witty, humorous, and just plain nice guy."

Books by Kevin W. Wright:

1609: A Country That Was Never Lost - The 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's Visit with North Americans of the Middle Atlantic Coast

A History of the Andover Ironworks: Come Penny, Go Pound

The Morris Canal and the Age of Ingenuity: Climbing Mountains to Solve America's First Energy Crisis

Around the Green, Newton, New Jersey

High Point of the Blue Mountains, 1990. Co-wrote 54-page book on the environmental and cultural history of High Point State Park with Ron Dupont.

Newton Historic Preservation Advisory Commission, 1987 to present. Prepared successful 1990 nomination of Newton Historic Town Plot to the NJ and National Registers of Historic Places, encompassing sixty-six buildings, sites and objects.

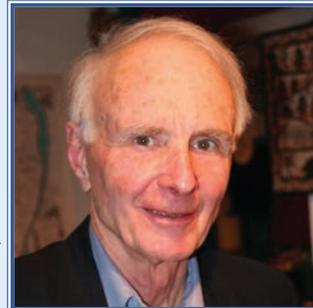
Kevin didn't think or want every building to be saved but he did think that historic sites gave people a sense of place and should be valued in our landscape.

Survived by his wife of 40 years, Deborah Powell, and their children, Ivan, Benjamin, and Anna, as well as his siblings, Colleen, Patrick, and Pegeen Wright and his mother, Teresa Mullen Wright.

Tree of Life: Selections from Bergen County Folk Art, 1983. Researched and wrote three scholarly articles on chip-carved spoon boards, Hackensack pottery, and local weaving for this 47-page exhibit catalogue (which won two awards for excellence). The Bergen Dutch Folk Art Exhibit was first mounted at New Bridge Landing in June 1983 and at the State Museum in Trenton between November 3, 1984 and January 3, 1985.

History of the Hackensack Meadowlands. In 1989, Researched and prepared layout for large five-panel exhibit on natural and cultural history for the Hackensack Meadowlands Environment Center, DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst, New Jersey. This was the first time people understood the historical beauty of the area. The document was the basis for numerous books to follow by other authors.

Scoutmaster of Troop 305, Fort Lee, NJ, and he was a recipient of the Silver Beaver Award and the Order of the Arrow's Vigil Honor.



He was active in three professional societies and was a Life Member of Mensa. An avid cyclist, he pedaled more than 50,000 miles in recent years. Whieldon donated more than 80 pints of blood.

During the Korean War, he was commissioned as a U.S. Air Force officer and later became a radar operator-navigator-bombardier in B-29

bombers. He was awarded the Air Medal for flying combat missions from Okinawa to North Korea with the 19th Bomb Wing. On his return to the U.S., he was assigned to intelligence duties in a B-36 bomber wing based in El Paso, Tex.

A native of Greenville, Pa., he graduated from Penn High School in that town, later earning a baccalaureate degree from Grove City College, Grove City, PA, and a master's degree in journalism from Syracuse University. His father, Harold Dodds Whieldon, operated a hardware store in Greenville for more than 30 years. Divorced since 1992, Whieldon is survived by a brother, Thomas W. Whieldon, and sister-in-law, Roseann, of Cedar Park, Tex., and by two nephews: Thomas Whieldon, Jr., and John Whieldon, and their families.

in 1683, so it took 300 years for a woman to be elected in River Edge! It was a wonderful experience. I served two terms.

Then in 1992 a very dear friend, Kevin Rigby, who was the mayor in River Edge at the time and who had been my 8th grade student at St. Peter, suggested that I run for the office of Freeholder. I was doubtful, because I knew nothing about County government. I was also concerned about financing the campaign, but Jerry stepped in and said that he would contribute \$10,000 to the effort. He volunteered to be my campaign manager and decided on a rather unconventional campaign. He purchased \$10,000 worth of US postage stamps and decided that

we should write a personal letter to every student I ever taught. (I had kept every grade book since my days at St. Peter.) As the first Hispanic to run for Freeholder in Bergen County, we would write, both in Spanish and English, to every Hispanic voter in the county. And we wrote to our alumni friends from Cathedral High School, from

Regis High School where Jerry attended, from Manhattanville, Fairleigh, Fordham—everyone from Bergen County who attended our high schools and colleges received a letter. We used every single stamp!

My running mates were Steve Rothman, who later became a US Congressman, and Tony Luna, Mayor of Lodi. We were called “The Dream Team,” because Tony was Italian, I was Hispanic, and Steve was Jewish. The County Democratic Committee had a beautiful campaign photo taken of us that was distributed far and wide. When The Bergen Record

endorsed both Steve and Tony, but not me, they printed that photo, but sliced me right out of it, leaving just my hand resting on Steve’s shoulder. I think that many women, recognizing the photo and seeing this slight, cast votes for me! When the results came in on Election Day, I was the only Democrat elected Freeholder, and I received the highest number of votes cast for candidates from either party!

I had a very interesting tenure. At the time, there were four women on the Freeholder Board—Barbara Chadwick, Charlotte Vandervalk, Linda Baer and myself, which was unusual—four out of the seven Freeholders were women. We became very good friends, to the chagrin of the Democratic



MARY DONOHUE JOINS SEN. LORETTA WEINBERG, ASW. CHARLOTTE VANDERVALK AND VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ACQUISITION AND CLEAN UP OF THE AUTO-PARTS JUNK YARD.

Chairman and the Republican Chairman. We were able to do so many things together. The Learning in Retirement program at Bergen Community College was the result of our collaboration. When the idea was first proposed to the Freeholders, there was much opposition. Today several hundred Seniors avail themselves of this excellent program, at a cost of \$200 each. The program is self-supporting, and it is an excellent opportunity for continuing education for Bergen County Seniors.

I was also very instrumental in obtaining approval for Bergen County Academies.

When first proposed, many school districts and their superintendents feared that the Academies would be an elitist, divisive program. After much controversy, it was accepted. I am very happy to say that my name is on the plaque at the entrance of the school. This is one of my proudest achievements. Today Bergen County Academies is reputed to be one of the best high schools in the country.

JK: What did you do during your 13 years working in Steve Rothman’s Congressional office?

MD: When Steve Rothman was elected to the House of Representatives in 2002, he asked me to work on the immigration and naturalization cases that came to his office because I was bilingual and there were so many clients. Steve’s office handled more than 1,300 immigration cases. Thirteen hundred! I called another congressman’s office to ask about a constituent’s case and offhand I asked, “How many cases do you have?” “Nineteen,” was the response.

JK: Wow. Quite a difference.

MD: Congressman Rothman’s office was located in Hackensack. And we welcomed. I’m happy to say that we were able to help many, many people. We were able to reunite many families. We were able to bring many students to study here and send many of ours to study abroad. I still receive letters and Christmas cards from people we helped.

JK: When I was a new volunteer at BCHS and started hearing your name, it was always in the context of, “Maybe Mary Donohue will have some ideas on how to do that,” or “Maybe Mary Donohue will write a letter for us.” It’s clear that you are seen as the helper, the supportive person, the one who can accomplish things.

MD: I enjoy helping people. I think, just as you say, that sometimes it takes just a voice, a phone call to do so.

JK: And one of the times you helped BCHS was when we needed a place for the library and archives. You made the connection with Bergen Community College, and

now we have a very happy home at Ciarco Learning Center.

MD: Again, it was made through a connection with an attorney I knew who happened to be the Chairman of Bergen Community College. It seems proper and right that the Bergen County Historical Society’s extensive library of Bergen County history is housed at Bergen County’s community college.

JK: Another thing that Kevin often mentioned was your involvement in naming the site “Historic New Bridge Landing.” Can you tell about that?

MD: Adding the word historic seemed to make sense. At the time, I had suggested that Historic New Bridge Landing should also become a National Park like the Great Falls in Paterson, but this was not to be. However, the US Post Office at the southern corner of River Edge was renamed “The United States Post Office at Historic New Bridge Landing.” And New Jersey Transit was persuaded to change the name of one of its two stations in River Edge from “North Hackensack Station” to “Historic New Bridge Landing at River Edge.” This was another memorable day!

JK: Why do you think it was important to change the names?

MD: New Bridge Landing is a historic site, important in the history of the American Revolution. Here George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, the Marquis de Lafayette, Thomas Paine, Baron von Steuben, Nathaniel Greene, General Poor and many others worked for our independence. I think it has been a lost opportunity for the United States and the State of New Jersey not to feature New Bridge Landing as an important tourist attraction. One of our most urgent objectives is to get children excited about our history. Our goal is to resume children’s school tours, as in years past. Every one of my children visited New Bridge Landing as a Boy Scout or Girl Scout. We hope to have this happen again, to have Historic

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CONT FROM PAGE 15- MARY DONOHUE

New Bridge Landing recognized as the important historic site that it is.

Fortunately, today we have a mayor in River Edge, Ed Mignone, who is very interested in history and who is working with us. Recognition of the historic importance of New Bridge could be an economic engine for the area. I understand that Morristown makes fifteen million dollars a year from visitors and businesses that profit from the fact that Morristown promotes their historic buildings. We could do the same thing here. Imagine all the restaurants and local businesses that would profit. And the railroad station is a short walk from our site. It's a natural. It's beyond me that the economic possibilities of this tourism haven't been picked up by the State.

The proposed museum at New Bridge Landing is the next project of the Bergen County Historical Society. We are proud that we have raised the funding needed to begin construction of the museum through private sources. We have not received federal, state or county funding for the building of the museum. We look forward to "shovels in the ground" in the near future. I hope we have a real barn-raising!

JK: That will be a very fine day, a truly historic day. Another event, of a quieter nature, is the naturalization event you run each fall. Of all the events held at New Bridge, that's my personal favorite.

MD: I find it such a touching ceremony.

JK: I'm a retired ESL teacher, and I always tear up to see people get sworn in as citizens and then walk right over and register to vote.

MD: Working at Congressman Rothman's office, I knew that the United States Citizen and Immigration Services held these naturalization ceremonies at schools or at their offices in Newark, and I said, "Why not at a historic site?" When I suggested the idea to the director of USCIS, he was very enthusiastic. It is also very fitting that the League of Women Voters of Bergen County attend the ceremony and, after the

new citizens have taken their oaths, the LWV registers them to vote. We always schedule the ceremony in September close to Baron von Steuben's birthday, but in time for the new citizens to vote for the first time in November. It is truly a very moving event!

JK: And it's great that the event is run by you, a naturalized citizen yourself. It must be very satisfying to know you have helped so many people in your various roles.

MD: I have been enriched by the work that I've been able to do in government, teaching, in the family. Every one of my kids is involved in something. I've just been very, very blessed.

**FIRST WOMAN ELECTED TO
THE RIVER EDGE TOWN COUNCIL**

**FIRST HISPANIC ELECTED TO
THE BERGEN COUNTY BOARD OF
CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS**

**MEMBER OF THE NJ DELEGATION,
DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE,
FOR BOTH TERMS OF
CLINTON'S PRESIDENCY**

**VICE CHAIRWOMAN AND
FOUNDING MEMBER,
HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING
STATE PARK COMMISSION, SINCE 1996**

**VICE CHAIRWOMAN OF
THE RIVER EDGE HISTORIC
COMMISSION**

**AUTHOR OF THE CHILDREN'S BOOK:
THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR AT
NEW BRIDGE LANDING**



Note: For the full text of the Mary Donohue interview, go to bergencountyhistory.org

CONT. FROM PAGE 11- MARY PARISH

mastered; for it is said at Fort Lee that no lawyer has yet been able to prevent her from shutting up every saloon she has attacked. She found that an old State law of 1836, which confines the sale of intoxicating drinks to inns, and prohibits any inn within one mile of any other to sell intoxicating drinks, remains on the statute books unrepealed. Then Mrs. Parish studied the Sunday liquor law of New Jersey...Violations of the Jersey Sunday law generally get the perpetrators in jail for two or three months with a fine of \$300 or \$500."

The Widow Parish also threatened to sue her neighbors for not doing anything to assist her in her campaign against liquor dealers.

"According to the laws of New Jersey the property owners in any region may be sued civilly for allowing nuisances to be maintained...I am determined to have the Sunday law enforced in this neighborhood."(Bergen Index, August 7, 1878)

From the *Hackensack Republican* October 2, 1879: "Regularly as the Court House bell rang on the first day of the term, Mrs. Parish was found at the reporters' table in the court room; neither weather nor want of conveyance kept her away - day after day she has trudged back and forth over the five miles of hilly road between her home and the county seat, braving the jibes and taunts that were heaped upon her from every side, and always with ready answer for her assailants."

Mrs. Parish suffered dearly for her cause. On the fourth of July 1877 she was attacked and beaten outside her home by Edward Hanlon. According to a newspaper account Hanlon told Mrs. Parish during the beating that he had been hired to kill her. Also according to the account Hanlon told her the names of those who wanted her dead: John Glosser, Joseph Schlosser, Charles Buckheister, Charles Dingle, John Burns and Edward Macdonald. Luckily for Mrs. Parish Mathias Hawes was passing by and

drove Hanlon away. Mrs. Parish was badly injured in the attack: "her face is one mass of contusions, and deep and ugly scratches in her neck." Hanlon escaped and was being hunted by the police. It was later reported that Mary appeared in court bruised and battered and testified against her assailant.

On July 8, 1877 a letter from Joseph Schlosser, Fort Lee innkeeper, appeared in the *New York Times*. Schlosser denied any involvement with Mary's beating and stated that he believed Hanlon was one of Mrs. Parish's spies who was often drunk at Schlosser's place and was turned out because of it. He also accused Mrs. Parish of malice towards many in Fort Lee. The *Times* had earlier reported that inn keepers claimed that Mrs. Parish went after them because they refused her free room and board in their establishments.

Schlosser's tavern was a target of those who objected to bad behavior on the part of drinkers in his place. One newspaper reported in 1874, that "the ladies of Fort Lee...would assemble at his salon on Sunday Evening and try what effect their exhortation would have on him." The ladies didn't show. In 1878, Henry Ebbes, "being sworn testified that he saw Mr. Schlosser on the Bluff some time in the summer, but he was not intoxicated; he is in the habit of drinking, but never saw him intoxicated; there was no fight in the house on the 22nd of February; the fight was outside the house; they were outside parties; did not belong to the party that were in the house; don't know anything of any disturbance growing out of anything in the house; in April I heard that Riley was engaged in a fight with a man named Hunt: riley was drunk, but think he was drunk when he came there; never saw any jurymen drunk at Schlosser's while I was constable; I was there last Monday, when young Otto was there; heard he struck Mrs. _____; it was outside the house; can't remember what sign Mr. Schlosser has out."

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The Court granted the license.

On July 16 of 1877 the *New York Times* reported under the headline Sunday Excursions to Fort Lee: “*There was no accident during the day, and very little intoxication or rowdiness. Lager beer was sold on the boats, but none could be obtained on the grounds. Mrs. Parish, who has been instrumental in preventing the sale of liquor at Fort Lee, says there has been a great improvement in the character of the excursion parties...*”

Mrs. Parish gave the names of the following as persons who have been cited to appear at Hackensack to-day on the charge of keeping disorderly houses: Alonzo Taylor, Charles Bucheister, Charles Dingle, Joseph Schlosser, John Glasser, Hugh Brosnahan and Mrs. Neizer. In the *New York Sun* August 1878 she alleged there were nine liquor sellers in the vicinity who were selling without a license: Martin Neiser, Wm. H. Carlock, John Van Gilder, Robert Annett, Isaac Truax, Philip Hook, John Burns, Henry Stewart and John Manix, noting that Manix was a constable.

What drove Mary Parish?

Mary Ricaby was married to Daniel Parish, a lawyer, on April 18, 1849 in Cleveland, Ohio. Mary was in her mid to late twenties. Daniel was a three times married and twice divorced man in his mid-fifties.

Daniel and Mary were apparently living apart by 1850 when Daniel is recorded as living in the 1st ward of Cleveland without Mary. His age is given as 43, born in Connecticut and with a personal wealth of \$3000. Mary could not be found in the 1850 census. She appears, as Maria Parish, in the 1860 census in Cleveland's 3rd ward running a boarding house. The census states she is 38 years old, was born in Ohio and had a personal wealth of \$800. This is the only census that Mary has been found in.

Daniel Parish's divorce petition was filed in Brown County Ohio, the 28th day of March, 1853.

Parish swore that Mary lied to him before the marriage. According to his petition She told him that she was an orphan. Parish swears in the petition that her mother was alive and keeping a “house of ill-fame” in Oswego, New York. He also claims that Mary had an illegitimate child in Brookville Canada. The child's name according to Parish was Henrietta Philips. Was it a coincidence that Philips was the name Parish's first wife, Jerusha took after she divorced Daniel? Other claims by Parish in the divorce petition were that Mary beat him several times, attacked him with a hatchet and scalded him with boiling water. Parish filed his divorce petition in Brown County Ohio claiming that he lived there. Mary had no knowledge of the divorce until after the fact. The required newspaper notice was put into Brown county newspapers. When Mary appealed the divorce decree it came out that Daniel was not a resident of the county and had lied about many if not all of his allegations against his wife.

Parish also stated that Mary told him that someone he accused her of having intercourse with was named Rickaby, which is very close to Mary's maiden name.

Mary was relentless in her appeals to overturn the divorce decree. First to have the divorce nullified on the grounds that it was obtained fraudulently and that the accusations Daniel Parish made in his statements were false. In Mary's appeal to have the divorce struck down her attorneys stated that Daniel Parish admitted that his charges against her in the divorce petition were false. The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio opined, however, that “*a decree from the bonds of matrimony, though obtained by false testimony cannot be set aside...*”

According to the *Cleveland Leader* of December 17, 1862 Mary was pursuing Daniel for alimony. But by 1856 Daniel was living in Fort Lee and practicing law in New York City.

On June 20, 1864 the *Cleveland Leader* reported that Mary had won her alimony case, the Ohio court awarded her \$1500. It is not clear whether she ever collected her money.

Daniel Parish, Counselor at law, died in Fort Lee on April 17, 1868. It was reported in the *New York Times*. He left a will but Mary contended that the will was a fraud. Daniel left only one dollar to each of his children, by Jerusha, who were living and to the children of his deceased daughter.

It should be noted that Daniel's will was written in 1867. Mary came to the Fort Lee area soon after Daniel's death to contest the will reportedly made by Daniel but which she called fraudulent. She fought the administrator, Joseph Coyte, for several years before the probate was finally settled. One of Mary's objections to Coyte: “*Daniel Parish was a native of Massachusetts and a New York lawyer. Joseph Coyte is an Englishman and an old cobbler in no way connected to said Parish deceased.*” His will did not provide for an executor which seems a strange omission for an attorney. He left his personal and real property to his adopted daughter Jenny Maria Parish. After his death his alleged daughter was claimed by her mother who according to the probate record was a relative. Henrietta Berry, the woman who claimed to be the mother of Jenny Parish petitioned the Bergen County Court to have her husband, Alexander A. Berry of St. Louis, Missouri made the guardian of Jenny until she is fourteen at which time she could choose her own guardian. The petition was made in July of 1868. The only mention of Jenny afterwards in the probate record occurs in 1875 as Joseph Coyte answers the exceptions made to the disposition of the estate by Mary Parish. Mary says there was no adopted child and her name does not appear in the accounts provided by Coyte on the settling of the probate. In fact while there was an Alexander A. Berry in St. Louis nothing

further appears in reference to Jenny Parish or Henrietta Berry.

When the probate was concluded Mary did receive money from the estate. Mary bought property in Fort Lee soon after the estate was settled.

Mary Parish's death and burial.

When Justice Fitzgerald and Constable Mannix entered Mary's house they found her dead on her bed. They also found a small white dog of Mary's who was starving and weak. Fitzgerald ordered the dog taken out and shot.

Mary was buried in Edgewater Cemetery the same day her body was found. She was interred in plot 136 with her late ex-husband and some others. In October, 1879 the County of Bergen reimbursed Doctor I. P. Latour for his services at Mary's inquest, \$5. Justice Fitzgerald was paid \$35.28 for the inquest he held.

The *Hackensack Republican* article on Mary's death concludes “*It is anything but creditable to a certain element of Fort Lee society that the death of this poor woman was made the cause of great rejoicing.*”

In 1898 in an article recounting Fort Lee History of the 1870s, Mrs. Parish was remembered as “an eccentric but energetic and shrewd widow.”

(*Paterson Morning Call*, December 14, 1898)

The *Bergen Index* published a poem about Mary (Sept. 30, 1879). The last stanza reads:

Thy dauntless heart beats o'er
Who singly dared defy
The force of evil gainst the Law—
And all alone didn't die?



BCHS Collections Committee

We continue to inventory and exhibit pieces from the Museum's Collection, meeting every week to photograph and inventory new acquisitions as well as restored pieces. BCBS has received some major donations since our last newsletter. These are just four outstanding pieces that tell the story of our Bergen County History. Collections Committee: Deborah Powell, Manfred Wagner, Cindy Piano and Patty Daurizio.

This iconic painting of **Washington's November 1776 Retreat at New Bridge** was acquired and donated to the BCBS in November 2017 by Deborah Powell in Kevin Wright's memory.

Artist B. Spencer Newman served in WW1, was an architect and painted many local scenes. He was an active member of the Bergen County Artist's Guild, serving several times as president in 1950-1960s. Raoul Mallalieu provided the connection to purchase the painting.



Portrait of Mary Robinson Blair (1814-1893)

Wife of William Blair, River Edge. William was a sail maker and supplier of tents and cover to the US army, served as Judge of Elections and Commissioner when the Bergen County poorhouse was built. They had eight children. Portrait is donated by her descendants Sarah Blair Brown and daughter Kristen Brown, who also provided the restoration funds. Conservator Gary McGowan, CPR, generously contributed conservation hours.

Portrait of Grietje (Peggy) Ackerman Westervelt

Peggy was born in Paramus, Dec 25, 1756 (portrait circa 1810) and married John Westervelt on May 10, 1778. We received four other portraits from the David Ackerman Descendants (DAD); William Kelly Ackerman, Cynthia Ben Robertson Ackerman, Lawrence Ackerman (William's father). The Ackermans are long associated with New Bridge Landing and Bergen County. DAD made a generous financial donation to BCBS.



Demoray Scrimshaw Powder Horn

Inscribed: SAMUEL DEMORAY HIS HORN
MADE AT FORT EDWARD NOVEMBER y 1 1776

A fort, row of houses, a masted sailing ship and tulip "vines" are carved around the horn. Samuel Demoray served in the 14th & 6th Regiments of the Albany County Militia. He was baptized in the Dutch Reformed Church, Schraalenburgh, June 9, 1754 and died 1819 in Upper Canada. This horn came down through the Demoray family and was donated by Cherith Davenport, Elyse Demaray and Mark Demaray to BCBS. We have other powder horns in the collections but this is the first one with scrimshaw carving. They were used for safe storage of gun powder. The horn is currently on Exhibit.

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