

A look back...

Much of what we know of Christmas as an American holiday comes to us from the multi-ethnic blend of peoples known as the Jersey Dutch, who first settled this region beginning in 1640. The Jersey Dutch were an agricultural community who settled and farmed the valleys of the Hackensack, Saddle and Passaic Rivers. As part of the holiday festivities at HNBL, where River Edge, Hackensack, Teaneck and New Milford come together, the Bergen County Historical Society recreates the setting of Jan Steen's 1664 painting *The Visit of St. Nicholas* in the dwelling room of the 1752 Steuben House. It depicts a favorite domestic theme of the American holiday, so familiar to modern eyes: Sinter Klaas has come down the chimney, bringing treats to good children.

The decorations include an ancient Kissing Bough, supposedly of Druidic origin, celebrating the solstice and the birth of the new solar year. Here people may meet under the mistletoe for the blessing of harmony. The origins of other holiday customs are explained, as for example, how in an age before inexpensive glassware, a piece of toasted bread was dipped into the wassail bowl by one and all to make a festive "toast."

See a rare copy of Clement Moore's *The Night Before Christmas* illustrated by Thomas Nast, at the Steuben House. Thomas Nast popularized the "Jolly Old Elf" look Santa Claus sports today.

Cornelius Bogert and son-in-law, Cornelius Quackenbush, had a Candy Kitchen on Main Street, Hackensack, NJ. They were famous for their clear toy candies and had over a 100 different molds. An exhibit in the Demarest House Museum features these sculptural shapes including fire engines, ships, a hand, pipe, pocket watch, Santa, Presidents Taft & Roosevelt and animals such as a rooster, dog, cat, pig, elephant, bird and a horse.



Jan Steen's *The Visit of St. Nicholas*, 1664 can be seen at the Steuben House



An original copy of *The Night Before Christmas*, by Thomas Nast, 1869 can be seen at the Steuben House



Look for the History of Bogert's Candy Kitchen of Hackensack 1890 to 1930 at the Demarest House. Newman children pictured here in 1960 using the antique molds.

Welcome to Historic New Bridge Landing Park

On December 1, 2005 the **Historic New Bridge Landing Park (HNBL) Commission** was able to complete the acquisition of the former Auto Parts Salvage Yard at Main Street and Hackensack Avenue, River Edge.

This ends a quest lasting several decades and begins the next great effort to build a visitor center at HNBL, one of 3 new urban state parks. We also need to build a new museum building on the former Pizzatown property for the safe storage and display of the collections and library of the **Bergen County Historical Society** (BCHS). The collec-

tions range from a prehistoric Indian canoe to the shovel used in ground-breaking of the George Washington Bridge. The BCHS has been and will remain a key player in protecting and promoting one of America's most significant Revolutionary War battlegrounds.

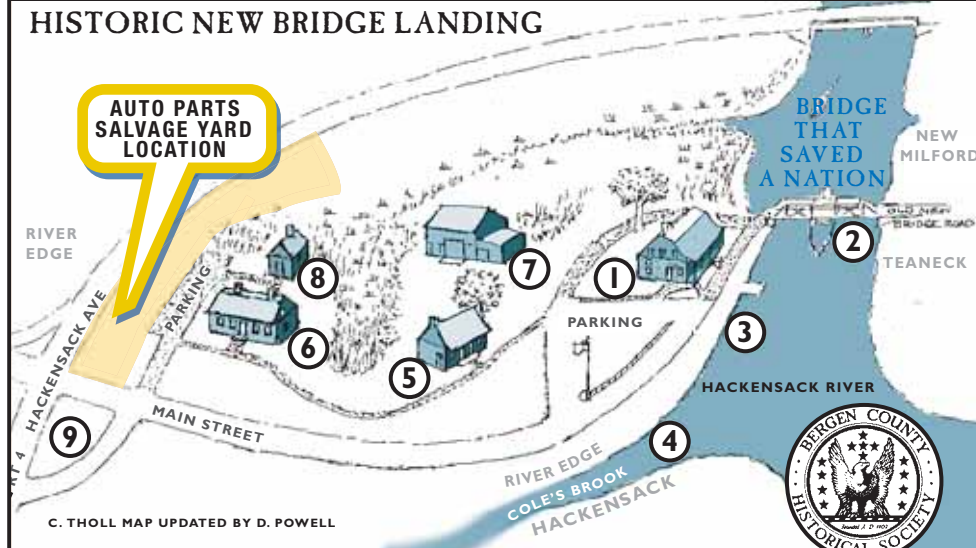
So as one door closes, another opens. **Please join us in bringing the attention and resources that HNBL so richly deserves.** Enjoy your visit and come back often.

Best Regards,
Kevin Wright, BCHS President

Washington's Retreat
by B. Spencer Newman, 1964



HISTORIC NEW BRIDGE LANDING



- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Steuben House | 4. Site of Zabriskie Tidemill | 7. Westervelt-Thomas Barn |
| 2. New Bridge (1889) | 5. Demarest House Museum | 8. Out-kitchen |
| 3. New Bridge Landing | 6. Campbell-Christie House | 9. Former Pizzatown Property |

Bergen County Historical Society

Lecture Program

Third Thursday of the month at 8 PM in Second Reformed Church, corner of Anderson and Union Streets, Hackensack. No fee.

Docent Workshop

Second Sunday of each month at 1 PM. Gain historical insight and background about HNBL.

Blue Marker Program

Historical information signs distributed throughout the County.

Events

Museum programs throughout the year at HNBL.

Newsletter & Publications

Biannual newsletter and publications program.

Revolutionary War Roundtable Speaker & Dinner Program. Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at the Old Hook Inn, Emerson.

The Bergen County Historical Society, a non-profit volunteer organization, promotes the preservation, study and appreciation of local history. Our museum collections are displayed at the Steuben House, a State Historic Site, and the Campbell-Christie House, a County Historic Site. Public programs include educational events, museum exhibits, monthly lectures, placement of informative historical markers, and a library collection.

Join Us! To learn more, visit:
www.bergencountyhistory.org



Tavern Night



Twelfth Night, 1794



Special thanks to all our interpreters

Holiday Tavern Night • December 10 and 11, 2005

Evening begin at the Steuben House and proceed to the Demarest House Museum and the Campbell-Christie House where refreshments are served. Be sure to visit the outkitchen.

Bill of Faire

Ploughman's Plate

Cheddar Cheese & Gouda Cheese
Dried Sausage
Seasonal Fruit
Condiments & Fresh Breads

A Selection of Sweets

Ginger Cookies Candied Peels
Speculaas Cheese Pies
Almond Pies Mince Pies
Dried Fruit & Nuts

Libation

Mulled Cider, Coffee, Tea
O'Doul's Kerry's Ale & Patriot's Lager (Non-alcoholic)



Kissing Under the Mistletoe, 1794

Colonial Holiday Concerts • December 17 and 18, 2005

Concerts begin at the Steuben House and proceed to the Demarest House Museum and the Campbell-Christie House where refreshments are served. Be sure to visit the outkitchen.

Hot Mulled Cider and Dutch Cookies



Christa Patton, Margie Cohen and Linda Russell
at the Steuben House • Linda Russell and Companie



Ridley and Anne Enslow