

The Bergen County  
Historic Preservation Advisory Board

PRESENTS THE

*2003*  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
COMMENDATION  
AWARDS

May 8, 2003

Held at the historic "Church on the Green"  
Dutch Reformed Church of Hackensack,

## NEW MILFORD FRENCH HUGUENOT CEMETERY PROJECT AND GIRL SCOUT TROOP 52, NEW MILFORD

The members of New Milford Girl Scout Troop 52 initiated this extensive preservation project. They wanted to take on a project that would give back to the community, specifically, the borough of New Milford. After consideration, they decided on a project of documenting and cleaning the New Milford French Huguenot Cemetery. The cemetery, owned by the Blauvelt-Demarest Foundation, is significant as it is the oldest cemetery in Bergen County. It contains the graves of the first French settlers, among them, that of Marie Demarest, who died in 1681. She was the wife of David Demarest, who bought this land from the Lenni Lanape in 1677.

After doing research on the cemetery, the troop requested permission from the Foundation for access to the site, and for support from the New Milford Historic Preservation Commission. They then contacted Pat Garbe Morillo, Historic Preservationist with the Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs, who has great experience in the area of cemetery preservation. She helped them with the proper techniques of cleaning and in the recording of information on Cemetery Inventory Forms. They also were helped by the knowledge shared with them by Virginia Mosley, the Tenafly historian and a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

These young girls showed up every Saturday weather permitting, working from early to mid-afternoon from April through August, to clean, document, measure, photograph and, in some cases, recovering, each and every headstone. While working in the cemetery, visitors were so frequent that the Scouts decided to erect a sign detailing what they were doing.



This project has contributed to the awareness of the original residents of New Milford and Bergen County. Due to the attention their hard work received, there is a renewed and revitalized interest in the historical significance of New Milford. The cemetery's inventory had not been done for 100 years. The work that the girls have completed has become part of the permanent historic record of New Milford. Copies of all the inventory forms with their carefully recorded information, has been deposited with the Bergen County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs Archives. The scope of this project and the quality of the girls work, their use of the best informational resources available and its coordination with local government and the public, is most deserving of a commendation.



BERGEN COUNTY  
2003



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