



IN BERGEN'S ATTIC



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

- BEVERLY HASHIMOTO

In the midst of ever-on-going planning, preparation and carrying out events of October's Harvest Homecoming, November's Gala at Seasons, The Retreat reenactment and Holiday Concerts coming up, one project many of us hope to see brought to fruition some day is the construction of Baron von Steuben's Garden.

Ever since I saw the plant list and rough drawing of a geometric formal garden that the Baron himself presumably sketched out... it has captured my imagination!

The documents were discovered in the collection of the New York Historical Society by Deborah Powell, Museum Collection Chair, and Patricia Daurizio, Museum Collection Committee member.

We don't know if the garden plan was intended for the Zabriskie-Steuben House at his 40 acre estate at New Bridge. The house was one of the great houses of northern New Jersey.

In addition to filling out the sketchy layout Steuben drew, we've been curious to establish exactly what the Baron wanted to grow in his garden. Armed with only my own limited ability as horticulturalist (self-taught), linguist (HS French), and historian (?), I thought I'd take a stab at it. At least I have the internet.

It's been interesting, challenging and fun: an amateur's attempt to untangle a mystery. Steuben's original document, consisting of some 50 lines, one line per plant, was composed in French and some English and divided into the

four seasons: starting with March, April and May; June, July, August; Sept., Oct., Nov.; and going on to include December, Jan., and February. Pretty optimistic for a novice breaking ground in Zone 7.

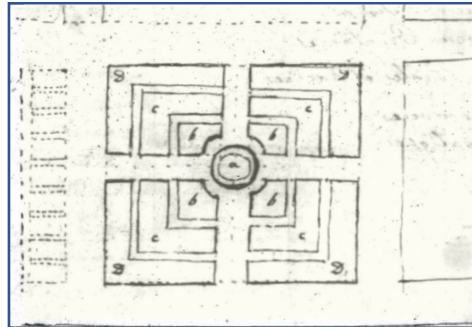
Each season was then further separated into two sections labeled Oignons (Onions) and Plants et Racines (Plants & Roots). The first cursory glance suggested that the Baron really, really loved onions and planned to grow and harvest them year round before realizing that Tullipes (Tulips) topped the list. Aha! A 21st century dictionary confirmed that today, Oignons is used in French for flowering bulbs, and not just edible onions.

But was that the case even back in the 18th century? Was that a beginner's mistake? After all, the man spent the better part of his life on battlefields or in encampments. He lived in Manhattan. Likely, the only gardens he ever strolled belonged to other people.

Additionally, as was common, Steuben was not a great speller. Uncertain as he was of the actual names of flowers, he could hardly be expected to spell them correctly. For example, Line 29, Pie d'Alouette (literally magpie of the lark), proved to be Pied d'Alouette (foot of the lark), Lark-foot... lark-spur...Larkspur!

Raising this question naturally leads to... what else didn't he know? In other words, if his

For the complete article; BergenCountyHistory.org > Publications



STEBUEN'S GARDEN DESIGN, NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Year at Historic New Bridge Landing



JANUARY - 12TH NIGHT - MEMBERS' POT LUCK & CROWNING 3 KINGS.

JANUARY - BRIGID'S DAY - CANDLE DIPPING IN THE OUT KITCHEN.



MARCH - WOMEN'S HISTORY - MARIA ANDERSON'S 1826 NEEDLEWORK, AGE 13.



APRIL - UNDER THE SHAD MOON / SHAWME CISCHUCH - PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGIST STEVE ADAMS DEMONSTRATES FLINT KNAPPING.

MAY - PINKSTER - A MAYPOLE, THE TRICORN DANCERS & MUSIC BY THE ENSLWS.



MAY - HNBL HOSTS THE BAR-LECTURES & WORKSHOPS FOR REENACTORS.



JULY - VINTAGE BASEBALL - THE RIVER EDGE ENTERPRISE CLUB V. FLEMINGTON NESHANNOCKS.



BCHS hosts at least one major event at HNBL each month. Each photo here is just one highlight from the many activities for families at these annual events. In addition there are **Pop-Up Tours of HNBL** & informative **Lectures** most every month, among other activities. This only happens because of our all-volunteer staff. Consider becoming an active member.

FEBRUARY - WASHINGTON'S BALL - CELEBRATING HIS EXCELLANCY'S BIRTHDAY WITH THE TRICORN DANCERS.



AUGUST - SUMMER SOCIAL - DECORATE & FLY A KITE, ICE CREAM MADE THE OLD FASHIONED WAY & MAKE BUTTER WITH A LAP CHURN.

SEPTEMBER - BARON'S OKTOBERFEST - THE BEER GARDEN, LIVE MUSIC & FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.



OCTOBER - "RAISE THE ROOF" GALA - FOR THE MUSEUM BUILDING. SOME ATTENDEES ON THE BRIDGE.

OCTOBER - HARVEST HOME - COMING - BUILD A SCARECROW, SAMPLE APPLES & PICK PUMPKINS.



NOVEMBER - RETREAT WEEKEND - BRITISH & PATRIOTS DUKE IT OUT ON "THE BRIDGE THAT SAVED A NATION."

DECEMBER - HOLIDAY CONCERTS - JOIN THE FESTIVITIES & SING ALONG!



DECEMBER - DUTCH SINTER KLAAS DAY - HOLIDAY TREATS IN THE TAVERN, DUTCH COOKING IN THE OUT KITCHEN & SINTER KLAAS, HIMSELF.

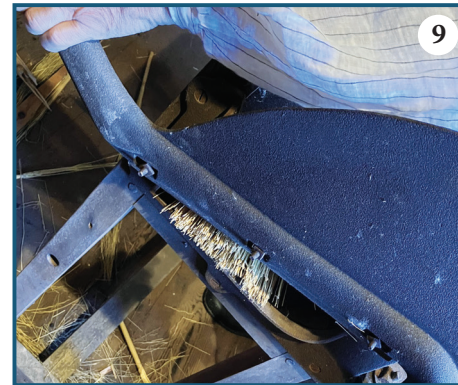


Broom Making in the Westervelt Thomas Barn

JOE RESTIVO, BROOMSQUIRE

Brooms, simple bundles of twigs, reeds, husks, or any natural fibers have been used since the dawn of civilization for sweeping ash around fires, gathering grains, corralling dirt, and even to shoo mice out of house and barn. In the Westervelt Thomas Barn at most HNBL events, you'll find volunteer Joe Restivo, making brooms. From a length of [1] beech branch a handle is cut using an antique *Frame Saw*, it's then clamped in an [2] 18th c. vice called a *Shavehorse*, to scrape off the bark and

clean it smooth with a [3] sharp *Scraper*. [4] With a hand drill, a hole is made in the handle for [5] a post inserted to attach sheaves of broom corn to. [6] Broom corn, grown last year has been hung to dry. [7] Secured into a *Broom Winder* machine, the sheaves are tied onto the handle and post with cording. [8] The sheaves' tops are cut even, and [9] the sheaves' sweeping ends are trimmed in a *Trimmer*. [10] Joe gives it a test sweeping. Come by the barn and see brooms made first-hand.



HNBL Volunteers

KATE REILLY

Ten years ago, with the kids grown and out of the house, Joe Restivo and his wife Carol decided to find an activity where they could participate together and yet each find their own niche; they decided to try BCHS. A decade later, Joe is New Bridge's broomsquire (story at left) and an expert interpreter of our Westervelt Thomas Barn. Carol chairs the Event Committee and is the creator of our clever children's crafts; she's also a Past President. Like many mature volunteers, they've found productive outlets for their considerable talents and experience in interpreting the eighteenth century for our visitors.

At the other end of the spectrum are the college students and young professionals working in education, library science, or museum studies who give their time to BCHS to gain some experience in their fields. Their energy and ideas keep the Society fresh and forward-looking.

Of course, all our volunteers come because they're interested in history, and while some have a high level of expertise, many come because they see involvement with BCHS as an opportunity to learn more. Whether working at our public events or in diverse areas behind the scenes, our adult volunteers not only enjoy working with fellow enthusiasts, but find satisfaction using their time, skills, and talents to preserve history for the local community.

How about you? For more information about the many ways to volunteer with the Bergen County Historical Society, fill out a non-committal form on our website:

<https://www.bergencountyhistory.org/volunteer>

Why BCHS Does Events at HNBL?

CAROL RESTIVO / KATE REILLY

To present an event at HNBL takes weeks or even months to plan; preparation requires shopping, sometimes for obscure materials, crafting and cleaning, corralling workers and presenters, cooking food, and setting up tables, chairs, and signs. Why would a group of otherwise sane people spend so much effort to open Historic New Bridge Landing to the public each month?

CORN HUSK DOLLS



Such events bring Bergen County visitors and beyond to the site and Historic New Bridge Landing has to be seen—no, experienced—to be appreciated, and that appreciation is the first step to preserving this cultural gem for future generations. Events give us the opportunity to interact with aspects of a society different from our own in a meaningful way, to travel back in time to connect us to our national, regional, and perhaps even personal roots. For children in particular, who are growing up in the technological age of screens and schedules, the opportunity to slow down for a teachable moment is a valuable experience. Seeing or even touching an artifact from a long-ago life; watching broom-making or candle-dipping; using their own hands to plant seeds for food, weave a pot-holder, churn butter, or make a corn-husk doll and playing the games that amused children 200 years ago are all activities that will be long remembered, perhaps even more than what they might read in a book.

It is not only our youngest generation that can be touched by temporary travel through the time portal of our events. Any adult who stands on Old New Bridge Road on a cold and windy November morning at our Retreat Sunday and then follows the American Army, led by General Washington, across the New Bridge with the smell of gunpowder drifting on the open fields, finds themselves moved by that brief brush with history. No one can sit in the dimly lit parlor of the Steuben House listening to ancient carols played on antique instruments and not be transported into the 271 Christmases celebrated in that very same room. It is impossible to sit in a candle-lit tavern on a winter's eve being served by ladies in caps and petticoats and not feel that you have been welcomed into the eighteenth century. BCHS events let us learn history at our emotional core.

There is, of course, a very practical reason for our public events as well. Your admission fee, whether paid at the gate or through your BCHS membership, supports the restoration and maintenance of Bergen County's premier historic site. We preserve the past for the future, for those who neglect their history will lose it. Come and join us at our next event; come learn, enjoy, and preserve our past.

APPLE TASTING



HNBL Corn Fritters with Cranberries



RECIPE ADAPTED FROM
Lenape Indian Cooking
with *Touching Leaves Woman*

- 1 CUP CORN KERNELS
[FRESH OR CAN, DRAIN OFF LIQUID]
- 1 CUP FLOUR
- 1 TEASPOON BAKING POWDER
- 2 EGGS 1/2 TEASPOON SALT
- 1/2 CUP DRIED CRANBERRIES
- 2 SLICES COOKED BACON, CRUMBLED
- OIL TO FRY MAPLE SYRUP

Nothing says Autumn in New Jersey more than indigenous cranberries [*V. macrocarpon*] served up on Thanksgiving tables. Even prior to contact, these berries that grow on low evergreen shrubs have been enjoyed by Natives for hundreds of years & have dried them for use all year. Its name is Middle Low German *kraanbere* & comes from the Dutch, as the flower, stem, calyx & petals resemble the neck, head & bill of a crane. By 1800, dedicated bogs were established in New Jersey. Harvesting usually starts just after the first frost, when the pale berries have turned red. Flooding the bogs facilitates gathering, as the buoyant, hollow berries rise to the surface & are gently skimmed off. Washed & packaged, whole berries are then on their way to your kitchen. This Fritter recipe is an HNBL Out Kitchen adaptation from a Native American source recipe that uses indigenous corn, maple syrup, & dried cranberries. It has been updated with baking powder & corn oil. Stringing cranberries with popcorn is a traditional family activity to decorate with for the holidays.

Combine well in a bowl; corn, flour, eggs, baking powder, bacon, & salt. Drop batter by a teaspoonful into a skillet of hot oil & fry, turning each until both sides are browned. Drizzle on maple syrup & serve warm.

Where is my BCHS membership card?

It didn't come in the mail.

In 2019 BCHS began using **JoinIt** to manage membership. JoinIt provides ease in managing membership renewals and takes away the need for manual mailings. Membership cards are now digital, available through JoinIt! The digital card can be easily downloaded from JoinIt onto your Apple or Android mobile device, using a wallet app, such as Apple Wallet, Google Wallet, or a third-party solution. This is an example of the digital membership card.

You can access **JoinIt** for your membership directly through the BCHS website.

If you have any questions, please see the updated FAQ on the **JoinIt** membership page, or contact us at: bchstreasurer1902@gmail.com



UP-COMING BCHS EVENTS

RETREAT TO VICTORY 11/24

Dutch Sinter Klaas Day 12/8 [at right]

Holiday Concerts 12/14 & 15 [see below]

2025

12th Night / *Members Pot Luck* 1/5

Brigid's Day / *Candlemas* 1/26

Washington's Birthday 2/23

Lafayette's Return Visit 3/30

Shad Moon / *Chwame Gischuch* 4/22

Dutch Pinkster 5/19

Annual Members' Dinner 6/12

Vintage Basball 7/12

Visit our website for updates or use this QR code to link to **HNBL Pop-Up Tours, BCHS Lectures** and for any other activities throughout the year.



DUTCH CHRISTMAS

Sinter Klaas Day

SUNDAY · DECEMBER 8 1-4PM

OPEN HOUSE

CAMPBELL-CHRISTIE HOUSE
& OUT KITCHEN COOKING

Meet Sinter Klaas

Dutch Foods

Hot Chocolate

Cookies &

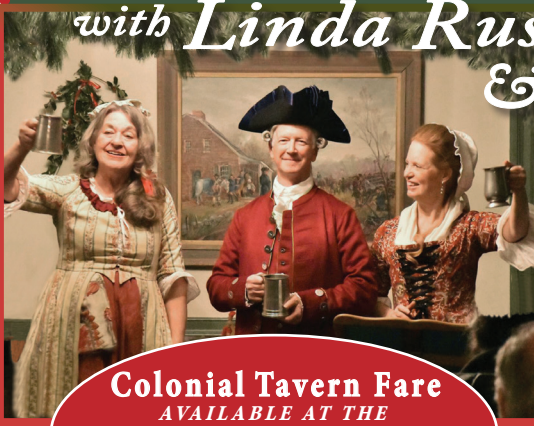
Donuts



Join the Festivities A YULETIDE TRADITION OF SONGS & STORIES IN THE HISTORIC STEUBEN HOUSE

BCHS 41ST Annual Holiday Concerts

with Linda Russell & Companie



Sat ~ Dec. 14 @ 5:00 & 6:45PM

Sun ~ Dec. 15 @ 3:00 & 4:45PM

\$35 NON-MEMBER

\$28 BCHS MEMBER

RESERVE NOW & FOR DETAILS:
BergenCountyHistory.org

Order your tickets by mail:
BCHS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661
SPECIFY CONCERT DATE & TIME, AND
YOUR 1ST & 2ND CHOICE.

Colonial Tavern Fare

AVAILABLE AT THE

Campbell-Christie House

OPEN SATURDAY 4 - 8PM

SUNDAY 3:30 - 7PM

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Contact BCHS@BergenCountyHistory.org

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BERGENCOUNTYHISTORY.ORG

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