

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Beverly Hashimoto, *President*

Greetings fellow members and friends of BCHS! It's been a beautiful spring at Historic New Bridge Landing, home of the Bergen County Historical Society, which looks just wonderful graced with the hundreds of daffodils and other bulbs that take turns blooming here and there – in flower beds, in the stone planters in the parking lot and at the Steuben House turnaround. Some, I fondly remember planting with Scouts or church groups just a few years ago. And some – impossibly peeking out amongst the reeds and the undergrowth and the self-sown saplings that threaten to overcome them – bravely continue to raise their sunny faces skyward. No one in recent memory bothered to combat thick roots and reeds to dig those bulbs in. No, they were planted on what I think of as 'the edge of the woods' before wetlands and woods encroached; a reminder that for decades past, BCHS members and friends – volunteers all – have loved this place too and spent their time tending to its beauty and well-being. May it ever be so!

What's behind us? The new roof on the Campbell Christie House was finished last fall through the County of Bergen. Windows in the tavern are yet to be replaced. The Out Kitchen roof was replaced this spring. So, more work for that active group of volunteers and the Events Committee who will move furniture and pictures out of the way until the project is finished.

What's ahead? Finalizing plans for the HNBL Visitor Center/

Museum Building, a process that chugs along as our architect consults with various engineers making sure the whole will function together. Tweaking the floor plans until satisfied that the structure will accommodate all the needs we can possibly imagine. Fundraising continues; our professional fundraiser has been dedicated to applying for grants – and there's talk of another Gala possibly this coming fall.

For those who regularly attend our monthly events, you know having a musical performer, a craftsperson or a speaker adds so much to the visitors' experience, but the reality is that visiting guests may have travel expenses or simply request an honorarium to appear. We welcome sponsorships to help underwrite our events and lectures. If you would like to support the appearance of one of our expert craftspeople or lecturers, please get in touch with us by email contactbchs@bergencountyhistory.org or phone **201-343-9492**.

In recent years we've held our Annual Meeting Dinners at historic sites in the county. Switching it up, the dinner this year will be at Maggiano's Little Italy, located at The Shops at Riverside, Hackensack, just a stone's throw from Historic New Bridge Landing. Maggiano's was a supporter of last October's BCHS 2023 Gala.

I hope to see many of you there. Join us for a fine evening as we elect new trustees and celebrate another year of a job well done.



Plans for New Visitor Center / Museum Building Coming to Historic New Bridge Landing in River Edge, NJ Unveiled

DEBORAH POWELL



The new 3,750 square foot HNBL Visitor Center/Museum Building planned for Historic New Bridge Landing is one step closer to reality with the recent unveiling of the final building plans by the Bergen County Historical Society. The BCHS shared both the colored renditions by architectural firm Arcari & Iovino along with the detailed drawings in hopes of continued donor support to help complete the project whose slated ground breaking is set for fall. “A capital campaign to raise funds for the construction of new building launched last year with great success with both individuals and corporate donors coming to the plate and supporting the project. However more is needed to ensure this project’s success”, commented building chairperson Deborah Powell.



SCAN ME

This is much easier than writing a check, finding an envelope to put it into, then attaching a stamp.

Scan the BCHS Donation QR CODE

This QR Code will directly take you to make a donation to the HNBL Visitor Center / Museum Building and you can do it right now!

You still have the option to donate by check by mail. Label it *HNBL Museum Building* & mail to BCHS PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661

Summer is just around the corner, knocking at our door.



Every other Wednesday morning, the **Buildings & Grounds** volunteers plant, dig, weed, & create new projects, making the site lovely for everyone. It may be trimming last year’s growth, painting a bench, or installing new fence rails. They are invaluable to Historic New Bridge Landing. Everyone is welcome. Bring your garden gloves, weeding tools, sun hat, & water. For more information & the schedule, contact Beverly at bchsgarden@gmail.com

Before Washington even crossed the Delaware, he had to cross the Hackensack... but he didn't do it alone.

The spirit of volunteerism is older than the American republic itself—just ask those men in Washington’s boat! It’s the heart and soul of the Bergen County Historical Society, but we won’t ask you to brave freezing waters or Hessian bullets; all we request is your time and diverse talents. Interested? Go to BergenCountyHistory.org/volunteer for more information on how you can help with anything from maintenance to presenting history.



A NEW ROOF FOR THE HNBL OUT KITCHEN

Maintenance is essential at HNBL for offering the best experience possible for visitors as well as staff. Natural elements of weather and moss will take their toll on a 34 year old roof. This spring the original cedar roof on the Out Kitchen was replaced through funding by the HNBL Park Commission. Fresh copper flashing was applied at the chimney. A chimney cap is planned for keeping rain and snow from coming down and damaging the hearth and fireback. The windows were re-glazed and painted last year. The doors and the two gable ends are in the plans to be painted this season.



LEFT, AS THE OLD ROOF IS REMOVED, BRIGHT NEW CEDAR SHINGLES ARE INSTALLED.

BELOW, THE OPPOSITE SIDE AS COMPLETED.



The Brigade of the American Revolution at HNBL

SCOTT BARONE

In 1962, when a small group of guys formed a shooting club dressed in 18th century period clothing and firing flintlock muskets at the Cantonment in New Windsor, NY, the **Brigade of the American Revolution** was born. Researching the clothing and other accoutrements that were used during the period, they focused on portraying the years 1775 through 1783, the Revolutionary War. To do research was a lot more time intensive than with little material available. Over time, more information became more accessible and the interpretation improved. Shooting demonstrations and reenactments were held as other members joined in and more units were formed. Today, The BAR has over 100 units with approximately 1,000 members. Continental soldiers, Colonial Militias, British Regulars, Loyalists, Native Americans, French Regulars, Hessians, Jagers and Camp Followers, along with a supportive Civilian contingent are some of the units that make up the BAR. These are the reenactors that participate in the historic events at HNBL and as well, throughout the eastern US.



PRESENTATIONS WERE IN THE STEUBEN HOUSE

The Bergen County Historical Society at Historic New Bridge Landing was honored to host The BAR's *School of The Soldier* on Saturday, May 4th. This was an event of instruction and information, insuring reenactments are presented authentic as possible for members and the viewing public. In the historic Steuben House, BAR members attended five presentations given by experts in their field, Colonel Sculley, Henry Cooke, James McKane, Paul Ackermann, and Todd Braisted on military history, fortifications, fighting strategies and defences used in Bergen County and the Hudson Highlands. There were Musket Drill Procedure; Safety and Practice, and building Gabions. For nooning, BAR members enjoyed a period meal at the Out Kitchen.

DRILL PROCEDURES BEHIND THE STEUBEN HOUSE



at HNBL



SHARPENING AXES WITH A WHET STONE.



CONSTRUCTING A FASCINE, A STICK BUNDLE IN MILITARY OPERATIONS FOR FILLING IN MARSHY GROUND OR OTHER OBSTACLES AND TO STRENGTHEN THE SIDES OF EMBANKMENTS OR TRENCHES.



The BCHS Library and Archives

contains a vast collection of books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, and much more that tells the story of Bergen County's history. We have had various homes over the years, the last nine at Bergen Community College's Ciarco Learning Center in Hackensack. Looking to the future, we would like to find a home with a partner organization that has a similar mission or a long-term, low cost lease.

If you have any ideas for a location, please contact the library committee at theBCHSLibrary@gmail.com



In Memoriam Robert "Bob" Roth [1950-2024]



An energetic and valued addition, Bob was well known to our visitors as one of the interpreters in the Westervelt-Thomas Barn and as the Out Kitchen's "official taster". Always eager to share a story or notable fact is only part of the story. A daily visitor to Historic New Bridge Landing, Bob always had tools in his truck, kept an eye on things, and took care of whatever required attention. If wood had to be chopped, pamphlets stocked in the kiosk, a piece of hardware fashioned, or a screw tightened, Bob was on it before anyone knew it needed to be done. BCHS relied on and greatly appreciated his diligence. In 2021, Bob received BCHS's Koehler Award in recognition of his significant contributions to Historic New Bridge Landing. On those rare occasions when everything was taken care of, he liked to sit and relax, enjoying the bucolic nature of the river and the grounds.

The Zabriskie-Steuben House

CINDY PIANO

While spending time at the Bergen County Historical Society Library, I found many interesting photographs, drawings and images of the Zabriskie-Steuben House. The thing that struck me was how much the house changed during the years, and yet is still very recognizable. The oldest part of the house was built in 1752 by the Zabriskies and it was doubled in size around 1765-1767. There is a beautiful date stone on the outer south wall of the house. It is carved with a water wheel, representing the mill, and the date of 1752.

After the Revolutionary War, the house was confiscated by the new government and given to General Baron von Steuben as compensation for his service during the War.

Outbuildings, including barns, a smokehouse, and a gristmill were once part of the property. Also, the trading post and an exterior kitchen were attached at the south end of the house. During its lifetime, the roof has been altered as well as additions that have been made and removed.

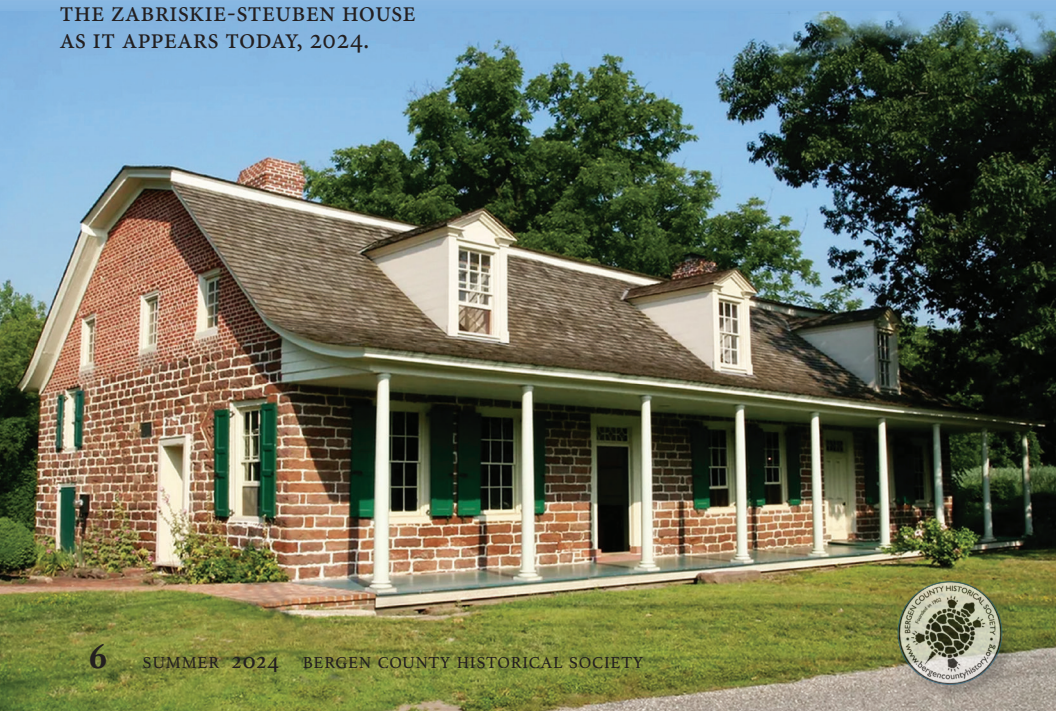
Throughout all of its changes, the charm of this grand old home is still evident.

The extant Zabriskie-Steuben House is open for many events throughout the year and one can explore and experience the ageless beauty of this stately home at Historic New Bridge Landing. To read more about the history of the Zabriskie-Steuben House visit:

BergenCountyHistory.org > [Historic Buildings](#) > [Steuben House](#).



THE ZABRISKIE-STEUBEN HOUSE AS IT APPEARS TODAY, 2024.



A visual timeline of the mansion's exterior

PIC 1 THIS IS AN ARTIST'S INTERPRETATION OF THE ZABRISKIE-STEUBEN HOUSE. THE TIDE MILL WITH WATER WHEELS IS AT THE LEFT AND IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.

PIC 2 ONE OF THE EARLIEST KNOWN PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE HOUSE, SHOWING THE ATTACHED TRADING POST THAT WAS REMOVED BEFORE 1890. NOTE THE WHITEWASHED LOWER STORY AND THERE ARE THREE DORMERS.



PIC 3 DAVID ANDERSON ZABRISKIE IS PICTURED IN A 1908 PHOTOGRAPH OF THE ZABRISKIE-STEUBEN HOUSE WITH A WRAP-AROUND PORCH, AN ATTACHED KITCHEN, AND FOUR DORMERS. NOTE THE DATE STONE.

PIC 4 THIS PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS ANOTHER VIEW OF THE WRAP-AROUND PORCH AND KITCHEN ON THE BACK. NOTE A THIRD SHORT CHIMNEY AND TWO DORMERS ON THE BACK ROOF--ONE IS HIDDEN.



PIC 5 THE ATTACHED KITCHEN, WRAP-AROUND PORCH, AND CENTER CHIMNEY HAVE BEEN REMOVED. THE FRONT PORCH IS SCREENED IN AND WHITEWASH IS REMOVED. A SMALL SHED PROTECTS A DOOR TO THE NORTH SIDE INTERIOR KITCHEN. C. 1938.

PIC 6 THIS PHOTOGRAPH IS DATED 1954, SHOWS THE HOUSE WITHOUT DORMERS, AND PORCH SCREENS REMOVED. NOTE THE HISTORIC SIGN AT THE FAR LEFT. THE CANNON AT THE BOTTOM RIGHT WAS LATER STOLEN, AND STILL IS MISSING.





BCHS Members Dinner 6/13
Vintage Baseball 7/13
Summer Social 8/11
Baronfest [an Octoberfest] 9/28
Harvest Homecoming 10/20
Retreat Weekend 11/24
Sinter Klaas Day 12/tba
Holiday Concerts 12/14 & 15

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES, OR USE QR CODE AT RIGHT TO LINK TO EVENTS, FOR *HNBL Pop-Up Tours* AND *BCHS Lectures*.



☆☆☆ BCHS Members 2024 Annual Dinner ☆☆☆



Thursday ☆ June 13 ☆ 6 to 10PM
Maggiano's Little Italy

70 RIVERSIDE SQUARE MALL
 THE SHOPS AT RIVERSIDE,
 HACKENSACK, NJ

- ☆☆ The evening's speaker and subject TBA
- ☆☆ Installment of BCBS Officers & Trustees and The Awards Presentation

Make Your Reservation online by June 3.
 Go to BergenCountyHistory.org > Events > BCBS Annual Dinner OR mail check & label it for "BCBS Dinner" to:
 BCBS, PO Box 55, River Edge, NJ 07661

- FAMILY STYLE MENU -

APPS - STUFFED MUSHROOMS & CRISPY ZUCCHINI FRITTE

SALADS - ITALIAN TOSSED & CAESAR

PASTAS - RIGATONI "D": CHICKEN, MUSHROOMS, MARSALA & FOUR-CHEESE RAVIOLI WITH PESTO ALFREDO SAUCE

- ENTREES -

EGGPLANT PARMESAN

SALMON, LEMON & HERB

DESSERTS - APPLE CROSTADA & TIRAMISU

COFFEE, TEA, ICED TEA, SODAS

CASH BAR **\$70**
 PER PERSON



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ContactBCBS@BergenCountyHistory.org

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