



Bogert's Mill ~ Prior to 1938

## President's Report

### Notes, Narration, and Natter from Gerri Gibney [768-2615]

January is almost gone, and around this time the winter doldrums or "cottage fever," as some call it, starts to set-in for many of us. BUT, the good part of the New Year ahead is the promise of springtime and its many opportunities to be out and about, doing the things we love. Now is the time we start planning for the adventure and opportunities ahead; whether it be repairs on the house, gardening, vacation, reading that book, or any of the things we left undone from last year. It's as if we put together a "passion list" of to-dos for ourselves.

You are probably asking yourself, where is she going with this, and what the devil is a "passion list?" If you look up the word passion, you will find the following meanings; fervor, ardor, obsession, excitement, enthusiasm, zeal. What's on your passion list for 2010?

If you are reading this newsletter, it would be a guess that history is one of your passions. The Society offers you a chance to help fulfill your "history passion" in many volunteer opportunities.

As you read further in this newsletter you can see the passion of the many dedicated people who are integral to the Society and its work. This month our guest lecturer came from within our own ranks. **Tom Hackett**, a Society member,

## Upcoming Society Events

[All at At Quantmeyer Room, The Public Library, Herring Street, unless indicated otherwise]

- **2/1/2010:** Monday, 7:30 PM "**Boy Scout Troop 616 presentation on archeological dig at former Boy Scout Cabin.**" At *Community Church, 1 Spring Street.*
- **3/1/2010:** Monday, 7:30 PM "**George Washington in Bergen County**" – presenter: William "Pat" Schuber
- **4/5/2010:** Monday, 7:30 PM "**Abraham Lincoln, Man of Sorrows**" – American Historical Theater presenter [AHT]
- **4/24/2010:** Saturday, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM **History Day.** At *Council Chambers, Borough Hall*
- **5/3/2010:** Monday, 7:30 PM "**Mr. Jefferson and His Music**" – Presenter: John Burkhalter [AHT].
- **6/7/2010:** Monday, 7:30 PM. **Society Annual Meeting** followed by "**HP Cemeteries**" -- presenters: John Mager and Davis Ross.
- **6/12/2010:** End-of-program year **Society Pot Luck Picnic.** At *Gerri Gibney's home, 154 LaRoche Avenue.*

presented “Camp Shanks and Shanks Village,” and Tom did an outstanding job. Do you have a history topic you would like to share?

**Dave Ross**, Society Secretary, not only writes and archives the Society records (in a most excellent fashion) he does ongoing research on the Borough of Harrington Park and Harrington Township. He is chronicling the town in words and in pictures! Would you like to be a part of this living history?

Our Cemetery Chair, **John Mager**, has fun, (yes, you can have fun in a cemetery) restoring headstones, righting headstones, and researching headstones. His study has brought him along a fascinating journey of the families who early settled this area. Through his efforts and his hardworking crew the OBG and the Perry Cemetery are maintained and gradually being restored. Would you like to join this journey?

**Inge Nebel** and **Ethel Johnson**, Society Archivists, inventory the Society’s collections. They get first-hand crack at the new “stuff” the Society receives. Can you imagine how exciting it is to research a new document, picture, painting, or artifact we receive into the collection and archive it for not only this Society, but for all time?

Through the good efforts of **Lou Apa**, Membership Chair, we have over 100 members! Lou always has great ideas, and one is using the personal touch to add to our ranks. What can you do? Ask a friend to join us at one of our lectures. They won’t be disappointed, and they might even become a member.

If you look at Lou’s column in our newsletter, you’ll see the folks who have recently joined the Society and some of

whom have given a donation to help us in our work. We thank them sincerely for their donations.

And, if you read **Ellen King’s** column, you will note that we are establishing a “Building Fund” line on our books. This is very important. Why? Because the Society has goals, both short and long-term, and one of the long range plans is to have a building to house our archives and artifacts and to produce programs to educate and inform folks about the history of our area. That’s why we will establish this fund, and you can help us by your donation.

In October 2010, **Anne Kruger**, Fundraising Chair, is planning another “A Magical Evening of Art.” You might recall we did this in 2008, and it was a huge success. Do you enjoy working on this type of activity? It’s kind of like a show biz evening, full of excitement and panache. Lots of little details to attend to before that evening, but on that night - WOW - is it worth it!

I look forward to hearing from you about *your* “history passion” and where you would like to contribute in the Society. As you can see, there’s a lot to choose from; lecturer, researcher, cemetery cleanup, photographer, fundraiser, archivist, writer, donator, or in whatever manner you would like to add to our Society.

You *can* be a volunteer of the Society at your own pace, your own time. Here at the Society, the opportunity to fulfill your “history passion” is limitless. You’ve got our e-mail and phone numbers, now’s the time to leap on board.

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**Secretary's Notes – Davis Ross** (768-3621 [davisross73@gmail.com](mailto:davisross73@gmail.com) )

**Missed a Meeting?**

Not everyone is able to attend our series of interesting presentations on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month (save for July & August, and 2d Monday in September). We routinely prepare summaries of these events. One day, perhaps soon, we will be able to make these available on the Borough's or our future website. In the meantime you can call or email me for any back issue. For the 2009-2010, for example, I can email you any of the following:

- “Camp Shanks and Shanks Village” (**Tom Hackett**, Jan 2010)
- “A New Look at Nagasaki – 1946” (William “Pat” Schuber, Nov 2009)
- “The Cold War: Reflections from the Early 1950s” (Peter Miele, Oct 2009)
- “NJ Mills: Whatever Happened to Them?” (Phil Jaeger, Sep 2009)

Earlier summaries are available as well. For a list of all 48 see **Harrington Park Historical Society Public Meetings - Available Summaries**  
<https://docs.google.com/fileview?id=0B6Dg6Halj9jLYmVIMTk4NTQtNDBmOS00NTq4LWE2OTctYWZzMzM3NDk3ODFm&hl=en> [*Whew!*]

As others become available that list will be updated.

**Ongoing Research**

In addition to the cemeteries' research that John Mager and I have been conducting and reporting on, we have been gathering data about the Borough and its earlier inclusion within Harrington Township. This work involves searches online and at libraries and archives as well as just walking around and taking photographs. In an effort to compile a visual record of the present-day Borough, for example, I have been photographing street scenes, buildings, waterways, bridges, etc. so that later historians will have at least one period of the town's past more or less uniformly represented. But I welcome others to take pictures too. The scenes that interest you no doubt would be different than my choices, so consider sharing them!

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**Cemeteries – John Mager** (387-7758 [johnmager@aol.com](mailto:johnmager@aol.com) )

On the western boundary of the Old Burying Ground (OBG) stands one of the better preserved headstones which is inscribed

SACRED  
 to the memory of  
 YAUN JEFFERSON  
 wife of Nick Bakeman  
 who was born August 30<sup>th</sup>  
 A.D. 1801  
 and departed this life  
 March 19<sup>th</sup> A.D. 1839  
 aged 37 years 6 months  
 and 19 days

A.A.C.



**Figure 1: Yaun Jefferson headstone**

There is no evidence that other individuals were buried in the vicinity of Yaun but her headstone is directly behind the "family plot" of Daniel A Blauvelt (1733-1820), his sons Abraham D (1777-1864) and David D (1768-1849), his grandson Daniel D (1794-1873) and their spouses. The likely connection between Yaun and the Blauvelt family (specifically Abraham D) was discovered recently in the records of the 19<sup>th</sup> century which also highlighted the legal process for ending slavery in New Jersey.

Slavery in New Jersey began with the early Dutch settlers and lasted officially until the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution in 1866. In 1804, NJ passed the Act for the Gradual Abolition of Slavery which stated that children born of slaves after July 4 of that year were free after serving their masters until the age of 21 for females and 25 for males. Births were to be registered with county clerks. The

following record in the Bergen County Book of Black Births provides the initial credible link between Yaun and Abraham D Blauvelt:

"I do hereby certify that ... my young negro boy named Nicholas is born on Dec. 29, 1824 and that my negro woman deYaun is the mother.

January 23rd, 1827

signed Abraham D. Blauvelt"

Since the father's name and the last name of the mother were never specified in the Book of Black Births, additional sources were needed to substantiate that the boy was Nicholas Bakeman (son of Nick Bakeman). These sources were the available US Census records for New Jersey from 1830 through 1900. Nicholas was tracked during that period and the 1900 census gives

Nicholas Bakeman's birth date as December, 1824 providing evidence that he is the boy recorded by Abraham D Blauvelt. The 1830 census, the earliest now available for NJ, which only listed the name of the head of household and members of the household by age group does show a female slave, age 24 to 36, in Abraham D Blauvelt's home. Yaun Jefferson Bakeman would have been in that age range.

Abraham D Blauvelt's house still stands today at 622 Lafayette Avenue; Yaun resided there or in another structure on the property.



Figure 2: Abraham D. Blauvelt homestead

The initials AAC on the tombstone stand for A. A. Campbell who started carving sandstone markers in Bergen County in the 1830's. There is one other tombstone with his initials at the OBG - that of Isaac Woldrum who died two years earlier, in 1837.

Although there is no definitive proof, we do believe that Yaun had a brother named Frank Jefferson born around 1805 who was the servant of David D Blauvelt. In his will dated 1846 David stated - "I order my son Daniel that should my former coloured servant named Frank hereafter by some cause or other be unable to support and maintain himself that Daniel or his heirs support and provide for him". Daniel did follow his father's instructions as both the 1860 and 1870 census shows Frank Jefferson living with Daniel. Where Frank is buried is unknown; but his wife Nan (the 1850 census indicates Frank is married to Nancy) was buried at the southwest corner

of the OBG. Her headstone which has since disintegrated read

In  
memory of  
Nan, wife of Frank  
She served her time with  
Tunis and Elizabeth  
Haring, Who Died  
Feb 14th 1851 Aged  
43 years and 10 months.

"When we read this are we prepared"

The inscription implies that she was born of a slave in 1807 and, as required, served her 21 years with her master Tunis Haring. The Harrington Township death records indicated that her last name was Jefferson and that she had died of consumption. There is one other African American known to be buried at the OBG - John Jackson, age 7 years who died in 1855 from consumption. The 1850 census listed John as the son of Anthony and Susan Jackson.

*Articles on other individuals interred at the OBG will appear in future HPHS newsletters.*

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**Members' Corner - Louis Apa (767-8325; [louisapa@yahoo.com](mailto:louisapa@yahoo.com) )**

In addition to the 43 memberships which we noted in our last Newsletter, the following renewals and new memberships have brought the total to 59 (as of 1/1/2010). An asterisk indicates an added contribution was made to the membership dues.)

**Welcome and Thank You!**

Returning members:

- Carolyn & Ken Fisher**
- Bob & Christy Frank**
- Ethel H. Johnson\***
- Ingeborg & Hans Nebel**
- The Scott Family\***

First time members:

- Neil & Marilyn Amdur**
- Lorraine & Terry Boyle\***
- Ginny & Hal Brandmaier**
- Liam & Liz Carlos\***
- Brian & Regina Ford**
- Martha Francis\***
- Joan & Jim Gaffney\***
- Phil & Jeanana Jaeger**
- Robert & Kathleen Jaeger**
- Carol & Mike Mansbach\***
- Bruce & Lynnae Psaras**

If you haven't received our membership application please call or email me and I will get one out to you as soon as possible.

And, of course, we appreciate your continuing support!

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**Treasurer - Ellen King** (247-0243, [ellen\\_king13@msn.com](mailto:ellen_king13@msn.com) )

As I reported to the Executive Committee on January 18, 2010, the Society's bank balance as of the end of December 2009

stood at \$10,778.14. The Committee will soon determine the division between Operating Funds and Cemeteries' Funds. In addition, for accounting purposes, we are considering creating a Building Fund. These measures will help the Society manage its financial resources and improve budgeting procedures.

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**Archivists – Ingeborg Nebel** (767-1521; [hansnebelviolins@msn.com](mailto:hansnebelviolins@msn.com) ) and **Ethel H. Johnson** (768-6357; [ethelhj@optonline.net](mailto:ethelhj@optonline.net) )

We recently compiled a 30-page inventory of the Harrington Park Historical Society's Archives. This guide lists photos, printed and written material by subject groups, from "Ambulance Corps (Harrington Park Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc.)" to "USA History."

A copy of this inventory is available for consultation at the Library. Please contact us should you have any question or desire to view specific inventoried material.

Throughout the year we accession artifacts, documents, photographs, and other materials for the Society's collections. These range in era from the 19<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Should you have any items that would help shine a light on our local history, please let us know!

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**Other Historical Organizations'Upcoming Events:**

**Norwood Historical Society:** February 1, 2010, 8:00PM. "West Shore Railroad" Presenter: Allan Seebach, Jr. Church of the Holy Communion, Corner of Blanch Ave. and Summit St., Norwood.

**Valentine's Day at Historic New Bridge Landing** • Sunday, February 14, 2010 —1:00-4:00 pm BCHS [Bergen County Historical Society] presents Brenda Miller, an expert at Scherenschmitte, the art of papercutting with scissors. Workshop by reservation only, limited to 30 people. Contact [BCHSbergencountyhistory.org](http://BCHSbergencountyhistory.org) or call 201-679-5182. \$30 — 14 years old & up

**BCHS Lecture Program • Architecture of Bergen, Rockland & Passaic Counties • Thursday, February 18, 2010**  
Noted architectural historian Tim Adriance will explore the Dutch/European roots of the cultural traditions of those who lived in early Bergen, Rockland, and Passaic counties. Second Reformed Church, 436 Union Street, Hackensack at 7:30 pm

**BCHS Event • Washington's Birthday At Historic New Bridge Landing • Sunday, February 21, 2010 —1:00-4:00 pm . . . CLASSROOM** Historic New Bridge Landing 1201-1209 Main St., River Edge, NJ 07661 • [www.bergencountyhistory.org](http://www.bergencountyhistory.org) • [contactBCHSbergencountyhistory.org](mailto:contactBCHSbergencountyhistory.org)

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Figure 3 Featured Image: Borough Offices, c 1954

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**Officers of the Society:**

**Gerri Gibney, President (768-2615)**  
**Regina Potter, Vice President (784-9628)**  
**Ellen King, Treasurer (768-2468)**  
**Davis Ross, Recording Secretary (768-3621)**  
**Louis Apa, Membership Secretary (767-8325)**

**Other Members of Executive Committee:**

**Michelle Ryan, Hospitality (767-8544)**  
**George Gibney, Public Relations (768-2615)**  
**Ethel H. Johnson, Archives (768-6357)**  
**Ingeborg Nebel, Archives (767-1521)**  
**Anne Kruger, Fund Raising (768-0427)**  
**John Mager, Cemeteries (387-7758)**