

## Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area Newsletter

Fall 2008  
Newsletter

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### Revolutionary War Beacons 21st Century Style - Look to the Skies

Celebrate "Evacuation Day" with the [Crossroads National Heritage Area](#) and our partners on **Tuesday, November 25, from 5 pm to 9 pm.**



The skies for 108 miles, from Princeton, NJ to Beacon, NY, will be lit with Skytracker xenon lights for a bi-state celebration to mark the 225th anniversary of the day in 1783 when the British quit the United States in defeat.

Twelve beacon signal system sites in New Jersey and New York will be symbolically lit. The sites closely replicate some of the 23 signal locations used by the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War. The sites in New Jersey and New York are:

#### New Jersey:

Greenway Meadows, Princeton Twp, Mercer County  
Washington Rock State Park, Green Brook, Somerset County  
Morristown National Historical Park, Morristown, Morris County  
The Beacon Hill Club, Sum.mit, Union County  
South Mountain Reservation, South Orange, Essex County  
Ramapo Mountain State Forest, Oakland, Bergen. County  
Twin Lights of Navesink, Monmouth County

#### New York:

Bear Mountain State Park, Bear Mountain, NY  
Storm King Mountain State Park, Cornwall, NY  
Scenic Hudson's Spy Rock (Snake Hill), New Windsor, NY  
Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, Newburgh, NY  
Scenic Hudson's Mount Beacon, Beacon, NY

### Oh Freedom! Traveling Exhibit Unveiled at NJ State Museum

The New Jersey State Museum unveiled a new exhibit, *Oh Freedom! Blacks on the Battlefield and in the Aftermath of the American Revolutionary War in New Jersey*. The exhibit's name "Oh Freedom!" captures the key reason blacks chose to serve: freedom from slavery and oppression.

The exhibit was unveiled on November 21st to commemorate the passage of an act by the New Jersey legislature on that date in 1786 that gave Negro Prime his freedom.

Three double-sided panels feature details about both British Loyalist and American Rebel freedom fighters based on authentic documents from numerous sources including the New Jersey State Library and Archives. The traveling exhibit will be showcased at locations throughout New Jersey.

### Events

November 25, 6 pm  
*When Artwork Speaks: Real Images from the Revolutionary War*  
Ocean Co. Library-  
Jackson Branch  
Call (732)928-4400

November 25, 8 pm  
*Over Here, Molly Pitcher*  
Historical Society of  
Bloomfield  
For more information call  
Call (973) 743-8844

December 5-7  
*Colonial Christmas at the Jacobus Vanderveer House* Celebrated interior and floral designers decorate the house for a festive look into Christmases past.

December 6, 1 pm  
*Abigail Adams: Dearest Friend*  
Gen. Mercer Chapter-  
DAR  
Crosswicks United  
Methodist Church  
Call (609) 298-2219

December 6-7  
*Morris County 2008 Holly Walk.*  
Four historic house museums in Morristown decorated in styles of the times when the homes were built.  
Call (972) 267-3465

December 10  
*Peachfield Annual Holiday Tour*  
Tours at 11 AM and 1 PM.  
Visit Peachfield when this beautifully restored house is decorated for the holidays in the Colonial Revival style and hear about the decorations of the period.

December 10-11  
*Moven Museum & Garden Colonial Holidays: Festival of Trees.*  
This popular family event takes a historic turn in 2008 with more than a dozen trees exquisitely decorated in themes relating to the year "1783".

December 11, 7:00 pm  
*Totally Tea: An 18th Century Tea Experience*  
Pequannock Twp. Library  
Pompton Plains  
Call (973) 835-7460

December 13  
*Mainstreet Mt. Holly Historic Holly Day*  
Battle of Iron Works Hill and the Mount Holly

## Crossroads Releases New Guide at Anniversary Gala

The Crossroads Association has released its first publication, *Crossroads of the American Revolution A Guide to New Jersey's American Revolutionary War Sites!* The release of the *Guide* was celebrated on October 30th at a gala reception at Drumthwacket, the New Jersey governor's residence in Princeton.

The new *Guide* is a collaborative work produced by the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection and printed by the Crossroads of the American Revolution Association with grants from, the NJ Historical Commission, the National Park Service, the Community Foundation of New Jersey's Fund for New Jersey Historiography, and the J. Seward, Sr. 1963 Charitable Trust.

The event also celebrated the 225th Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and the delivery of news of the signing to Congress in Princeton, then the nation's capital. Two pages of the Treaty of Paris, on loan from the New Jersey State Archives, were on display that evening at the event.

Guests from throughout the Heritage Area enjoyed performances by the Old Barracks Fife and Drum Corps and the Practitioners of Musick.

The *Guide* will be available for \$5 at many historic site and museum gift shops in New Jersey and on the web, plus shipping and handling, at [www.revolutionarynj.org](http://www.revolutionarynj.org) after December 1. For more information email: [info@revolutionarynj.org](mailto:info@revolutionarynj.org)

## New Attractions at Fort Lee Historic Park

Fort Lee Historic Park, located in Palisades Interstate Park, on Hudson Terrace in Fort Lee, NJ, has great new things to see...and occasionally to hear. These new attractions include replicas of a blockhouse and officer's hut, plus a blockbuster 32-pounder cannon.

"These are the times that try men's souls." Thus begins The Crisis, Thomas Paine's famous pamphlet of December 1776, his vivid account of the Continental Army's hasty retreat from Fort Lee to New Bridge Landing and south to Pennsylvania.

This weekend more than a dozen Living History groups commemorated the 232nd Anniversary of the British Invasion of New Jersey at Fort Lee Historic Park. Reenactors representing Continentals, Militia, British, Hessian & Loyalist troops took part in field and camp activities.



## Eagle Scout Restores Smokehouse at the Jacob Gearhart Farmstead (1765-1791)

Several years ago, [Ethan White](#) of Boy Scout troop 401 embarked on an ambitious Eagle Scout project in Franklin Township, Hunterdon County.

Ethan enlisted the help of experts to help him determine that the smokehouse c. 1799 was a part of the original Jacob Gearhart Farmstead (1765-1791). During the Revolutionary War, Captain Gearhart of the Hunterdon County

Historical Society Holiday House Tour.

December 13, 2-8 pm  
[Downtown Bordentown Bordentown Holiday Historic Homes Tour.](#)

This annual event is a self-guided walking tour of historic homes in Bordentown City.

December 13, 1:00 PM  
[Abigail Adams: Dearest Friend](#)

Burlington County  
Historic Courthouse  
120 High St., Mt. Holly  
Call (609) 914-0811

December 14, 2-4pm  
[Bergen Co. Historical Society](#)

[Campbell-Christie House Holiday Open House.](#)  
Holiday treats, visit from Sinter Claus, and open-hearth cooking.

December 18-19  
[Bergen Co. Historical Society](#)

[Winter Tavern Nights.](#)  
Light tavern fare, desserts and musical entertainment at the Campbell-Christie House.

December 20 - 21  
[Bergen Co. Historical Society](#)

[25th Annual Colonial Christmas Concert.](#)  
Eighteenth century holiday music and stories of Linda Russell and Company.

December 26 - 31  
[Patriots Week](#)

Enjoy art, music, literature, battlefield re-enactments, and living history events.

January 13, 7:30 pm  
[Totally Tea: An 18th Century Tea Experience.](#)  
AAUW - Medford Branch  
Cranbury Hall, Medford  
Call (856) 795-5814

January 15, 1:30 pm  
[Totally Tea: An 18th Century Tea Experience](#)  
Women's Guild of  
Rossmoor Community  
Church Village Mall,  
Monroe Township  
Call (609) 655-2321

## Crossroads Heritage Area Sponsors 2008

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Militia secured boats used by Washington and the Continental Army to cross the Delaware in on Christmas night in 1776 -- the prelude to victory in Trenton on December 26.

The simple smokehouse building is a rough cube, 6-feet per side and tall, located several feet from a small branch of the Raritan River. The walls are constructed of a mix of fieldstone, limestone and sandstone, with a door.

Ethan's Eagle Scout project preserved an important piece of early American farming history and brought attention to Revolutionary War Captain Gearhart.



#### New Jersey

Dept. of State, NJ  
Historical Commission

J. Seward Johnson, Sr.  
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The Hyde and Watson  
Foundation

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### Crossroads of the American Revolution National and State Heritage Area

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