

## Crossroads of the American Revolution National Heritage Area

### Newsletter Winter 2009

***The Times March 8, 2009***

#### ***Opinion***

#### **Legislation Introduced for Battle Site Protection!**

In this history-rich region, there are an array of sites that help tell the epic story of the quest for independence and democracy. But here, as in other areas of the country, unchecked development threatens to shadow and swallow some of these battlefields and related sites. Concern over that encroachment prompted U.S. Rep Rush Holt, D-N.J., to sponsor legislation that would establish a federal grant program specifically for preserving and protecting battle sites associated with the American Revolution and the War of 1812. The preservation act, which has been passed in the House and now awaits a vote in the Senate, would address sites in 33 states.

Holt's legislation, which proposes that the preservation be financed through the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund, also calls for working closely with state and local governments to maintain the sites.

Such a collaborative effort should go a long way toward conserving these sites as reminders and a touchstone of the sacrifice and courage that changed the course of human events in those very uncertain times. It would also further establish the Trenton area, the site of so many decisive battles in the American Revolution, as a tourist destination.

Click on this link to read the entire editorial printed in the [Trenton Times](#).

#### **Two Landmark Liberty Corner Farms Preserved**

The historic village of Liberty Corner - a rural pocket in suburban Bernards Township, Somerset County - will retain its unique charm for generations to come, thanks to the preservation of two landmark properties.

With New Jersey Conservation Foundation serving as land preservation consultant, Bernards Township purchased the development rights to the 81-acre English Farm (in the form of an agricultural easement) and bought the 23 acre Sons of Liberty Farm outright.



The easement on the English Farm was purchased for just under \$9.7 million, with 60 percent of the funding coming from the township and 40 percent from Somerset County. The easement legally requires the owners of the farm - now and in the future - to maintain it for agricultural use.

The township used its open space and farmland preservation fund to pay \$3 million for Sons of Liberty Farm.

Committeeman John Carpenter recognized the Foundation's Director of Partnerships & Greenways, Laura Szwak, for her role in the team effort to preserve these farms. He noted that Ms. Szwak understands government regulations, grants and estate planning and was able to act as a neutral third party in negotiations between the township and landowners.

To read the entire press release from the [New Jersey Conservation Foundation](#) visit their website.

#### **Meet Our New Board Members!**

**John Capozucca** is senior editor at Torre Lazur McCann in Parsippany. He is a staunch advocate for environmental and historic preservation. While chairman of the Bloomingdale Environmental Commission, he fought tirelessly to protect and preserve Bloomingdale's Federal Hill. The mile-square mountain, which is home to wild turkey, bears and raptors, was the site of the Revolutionary War's only attempted mutiny by Washington's troops. A former trustee of the Alliance of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), he continues to serve the environmental community as a member of ANJEC's advisory council.

**Julie Gandy** worked as a transportation planner for Burlington County for 14 years, work that also included open space preservation. She is a former member of the State Planning Commission, the Evesham Township Environmental Commission, Planning Board, Governing Body, and Historic Preservation Commission. She started the recycling program in Evesham Township in 1978. Also a

former trustee of the Alliance of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC), she has done volunteer work for ANJEC since 1977. She recently purchased a historic home in the historic village of Mauricetown, Cumberland County.

**Dr. George Hill** is retired from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey as professor and chief of surgical oncology. He is also a retired captain of the Medical Corps of the U.S. Navy Reserve. After his retirement, Dr. Hill pursued his life long interest in history and literature, earning an M.A. in history from Rutgers University in 1999 and a D.Litt. in history from Drew University in 2005. Dr. Hill is active in many medical organizations and also many patriotic lineage organizations. Currently the vice president of the NJ Society of the Sons of the Revolution he is also governor emeritus of the NJ Society of the Order of the NJ Society of the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, of the Society of Colonial Wars in NJ and of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in New Jersey.

**Pat Huizing** is currently the director of development and outreach at the New Jersey Conservation Foundation with over 18 years experience working for cultural and environmental organizations. The former executive director of Preservation New Jersey, she also served as publicity director for the Princeton YWCA, communications director for the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association and executive director of the Mount Dora Center for the Arts in central Florida. Pat has served on numerous nonprofit boards and is currently President of the Wildlife Center, Inc. in Mercer County, New Jersey.

**Patrick Murray** is the director of the Monmouth University Polling Institute. His prior experience includes directing the Star-Ledger/Eagleton-Rutgers Poll and the Bloustein Center for Survey Research. His expertise in survey research has given him the opportunity to commentate on NJ politics and public opinion and he has been on local stations as well as on national media outlets such as NPR. He has worked for NBC News as a national election analyst. Mr. Murray and his wife have a documentary film company.

**Dan Saunders**, the acting administrator of New Jersey's Historic Preservation Office, has been identifying historic properties and assessing the effect of projects for the HPO since 1986. He is an expert on making historic buildings accessible while preserving their historic character. Dan has reviewed the rehabilitation of Congress Hall in Cape May, the Vail Mansion in Morristown, and the restoration of High Point Monument as well as projects for the stabilization and preservation of the south side of Ellis Island and the restoration of Fort Mott. He has served both as a member of a local planning board and as chair of a local historic preservation commission.

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