

The Meadow Lark

Volume 29 Issue 1

The Meadows Foundation Publication

Summer 2005

EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Sept 10 - Lucille Carr-Kaffashan Cabaret Concert at Van Wickle House 8pm tkts \$20 advance/ \$25 at door 732-560-1977

Sept 11 - Second Sunday House Tour from 1-3pm

Sept. 17: PaperMania Exhibit & Sale - Canal House 10 am to 4pm

Sept. 18: PaperMania Exhibit & Sale - Canal House 12 pm to 4pm

OCTOBER

Oct 2- Celebration -Van Liew Suydam House ribbon cutting for exterior restoration , tours and exhibits 2-4 pm

Oct 9 - Second Sunday House Tours from 1-3pm

Oct 15 - Colonial Times in Franklin - Wyckoff Garretson

Oct 16 - Colonial Times in Franklin - Wyckoff Garretson

Oct. 29 - Paul Muldoon, Irish American poet, .at Tulipwood 3pm
Tkts \$15 advance/\$20 a door for info or reserve call 732-560 1977

Oct . 30- Pumpkin Patch and Enchanted Forest

NOVEMBER

Nov. Annual Meeting TBA

Nov. 12: Holiday Sale -Canal House 10 am to 4 pm

Nov. 13: Holiday Sale -Canal House 12pm to 4 pm

Nov 13 - Second Sunday House Tour from 1-3 pm

DECEMBER

Dec. 2 - 4 Biff Heius Art Exhibit/Sale Fri 5pm to 8pm/
Sat 10a to 5p/ Sun 12pm to 5pm

Sunday - Dec 4 -Sinterklaas Festival

Sunday Dec 11 - Second Sunday House Tours from 1-3pm

Van Liew Suydam House celebrates restoration Oct 2nd



Van Liew-Suydam after restoration

The public is cordially invited to share the joy as we celebrate

the grand reopening of the Van Liew Suydam House at 280 South Middlebush Road on Sunday October 2nd. The ribbon cutting ceremony will begin promptly at 2 pm. There will be several dignitaries, a tour of the house, and an exhibit of antique tractor and farm equipment.

The original clapboards placed on the front of the house. A new porch was reconstructed based on the original design. Soon there will be shutters. Gary Randolph is to be commended.

Wyckoff Garretson - Colonial Times Oct 15 & 16

Skilled craftsmen and women, music and the 11th Pennsylvania Regiment militia will present period activities throughout the house and grounds during a two-day encampment and exhibition on Saturday October 15th from 10 am until 5pm. It will be followed by a colonial-style dinner at the Hageman Barn located a few hundred feet away.



On October 16th activities will commence at 11am and end at 4pm. House tours and demonstrations will



be offered both days. Eighteenth century children's games and military drills with wooden muskets for the youngsters will be conducted.

Hear the 17th & 18th century music while you

enjoy seeing the period furniture and artifacts on display in the house. The history of this house and its family is particularly interesting.

Cornelius Wyckoff was one of

(Continued on page 7)

A Message from President John L. Mullen III

*Hello Meadows
Foundation
Members and
Friends,*



More than six months have passed since I became President at the beginning of this year and I remain proud and honored to serve.

We have been busy executing restorations at the various houses. An exterior painting project is underway at the Franklin Inn funded by past book sales and the careful management of monies by the Franklin Inn Group. The Van Liew Suydam exterior restoration is continuing, funded by Franklin Township and

Somerset County Grants. Meanwhile a porch restoration and Historic Structures Report are underway at Tulipwood funded by a grant from Franklin Township. The Hageman Farm received emergency restoration attention to the front and side porches thanks to Franklin Township and a multi-year museum quality restoration is continuing at the Wyckoff Garrettson House funded by various grants.

While we have been extremely successful getting the grant monies in to do much needed restorations we still need capable and enthusiastic volunteers/Meadows members and Board members to help with the never-ending projects and operations of the foundation. We

are also looking for caretakers at some of the houses.

I wanted to thank many of you who responded to a letter that I sent out earlier this year asking members to renew memberships and to consider upgrading to a higher level of membership. The response to the letter was good and many of you renewed and/or upgraded to a higher membership level. Thank you again for your support.

With current world events we should all be thankful for the freedom that we have. Freedom is not free; there is a cost, not just a financial cost but a human cost as well. We are making progress in the fight to save our historic resources; we need financial and human support to succeed. With your help and support, victory is assured.

Hope to meet you at the houses.

John L. Mullen III

Tulipwood Gets New Paint, Restored Columns



NJHPO board members designate Tulipwood into NJ historic registry.

Tulipwood is making great strides thanks to the efforts of John Mullen, Howard Levine, Jean and Joe Pellicane, Gary Randolph, John Lovel, Betty Scott, Mark and Greta Else, Lou Dima, Ellen and Bruce Hamilton, Bonnie Sovinee and Frank Blair all of whom serve on the Tulipwood

Committee. They have toiled on the funding and restoration issues as contractors and historians



strive to restore the magnificence of Tulipwood.

The columns and porch have been restored, and put back into place. A poetry event with Paul Muldoon on October 29th at 3 pm will be wonderful.



Feature Spotlight on Van Liew Suydam by Gary Randolph

As you might have known, my experience with the Van Liew Suydam house began in about 1967 at age 4. My mom was friends with Mrs. Dorothy O'Connell, the last private owners of the house. Since their four kids



Gary A. Randolph

where about the same age as myself and my older siblings, we spent a lot of time there and I have many fond memories of both the family and of the house. I knew that the Puskas's were occasionally in touch with the oldest son Bob, and I asked him for his phone #. Had a long talk with him Sunday night, first contact I had with anyone from the family since the State of NJ forced them to leave in 1974. (Rob and Dorothy have since passed away) He however has a retail farm market in Old Bridge now. He said he had driven by the house this past January, and said that the house looked so bad, he couldn't even look at it on a subsequent trip past. I gave him an update on the house and invited him to stop up. Today he did, along with his fiancée Linda, his sister Nancy and other sister (and my childhood partner in crime) Peggy. Such a nice time. My mom and myself spent two hours talking about times back then and their mom. While walking around and through the house we shared memories and

laughter. Their many memories of the house and years spent there are happy ones, and they are Very pleased to see the house they remember and loved being restored and cared for. The pictures they brought of the house in that time show it meticulously maintained, freshly painted, shutters on, and it being surrounded by neat uncluttered grounds with several flower beds that transitioned the lawn into the surrounding tilled fields. Bob's fiancée is very interested in historic houses and their restoration. I told them about the Meadows, the restoration project, shared with them the HSR done

for the house as well as the pictures that Marie Vajo had given to me taken during her years there. They expressed to me their thanks that we (The Meadows Foundation included) remembered them and their time and contributions there and appreciated the chance to come back. I hope (and think that they will) come back again either for a 'Come watch the Sunset' or to the re-opening of the house.

As with the other Meadow's houses, The VLS house is a house rich in history and filled with fond memories of good times by the families who lived there.

Hageman Farm House Welcomes Descendants and receives donation from the Suydam Family

This is an update for those that were unable to attend the Hageman Family reception on May 22, 2005.

About thirty people attended this very nice event. Ann Suydam prepared the punch, brought some flowers and cookies. We brought some brownies.

It is rare that we have an opportunity to meet the families whose ancestors built or lived in one of our houses. We had descendants of Hagemans and the Van Wickles. Jane Van Wickle was married to Benjamin Hageman.

We were pleased to receive some very nice pictures of important family members. One is a lithograph of Benjamin Hageman, the builder of the

house, and a short narrative on the connection to the Van Wickle family. The second was a beautiful photo of Garretson Hageman and his family. In addition, they had framed some fabric that had come down through the years on large bolts of cloth. Jan ten Broeke hung the pictures in the Tax Collector's room as you enter from the side porch. He hung the two framed fabrics in the music room where the two pianos are located.

Marianne Hageman would like to donate funds to commemorate her daughter on a step in the front stairs. There is one previously recognizing her son.

Regular Second Sunday tours will resume. See you then.

Cookery Corner by Johanna Hnedak

The first formal cook books used in America were reprints of those published in England and were a rarity. Most recipes were still handwritten and handed down through families or exchanged between friends. Delicious meals however continued to fill the tables and feed the hungry colonists.

Bricks were scarce in the new land. There was very little known clay available for brick-making, especially along the unsettled shores of the Atlantic where the Pilgrims landed. The colonists were not equipped yet to manufacture bricks, so the Pilgrims did their baking either in Dutch ovens of tin or in an iron kettle. The tin oven was set facing the open fire on the stone hearth with a tin shield to ward off the flames. An iron kettle had squat legs and an indentation on the lid

for hot coals to give the top heat. Fireplaces with brick wall ovens were later used for baking with wood being the primary fuel used. There were no "knobs" of course to control the temperature while cooking but the colonists had a method to measure heat which was simple but effective. If the heat was excessive, it scorched the inquiring hand!

Just as desserts are popular today, early desserts were a favorite also. There were tarts filled with preserved fruit or jellies, puddings and custards which were served with a sweet sauce, cakes, pies and even ice cream. The earliest congealing agent used in the colonies was gelatin made by boiling down calves' feet. "Isinglass" was a gelatin extracted from the air-bladders of certain fish and became popular during the 1800s, but most good cooks preferred to use "calf's foot jelly"

because it had a better taste and consistency.

JOSEPH REED'S EARLY AMERICAN COFFEE ICE CREAM

1/4 pound ground coffee
2 cups cream
2 cups milk
1 cup sugar

Put the coffee, cream and milk into a double boiler. Bring to a boil and immediately remove from the stove. Let stand until cold. Strain and then blend in the sugar. Put into a container and freeze.

JOSEPH REED was an active patriot who lived in Philadelphia in 1770. He was instrumental in the detection of treason in the dealings of General Arnold and was the man who forced bringing the General to trial. He died in 1785, having served for a number of years as president of Pennsylvania.

Lucille Carr-Kaffashan returns to Van Wickle for Sept 10 Concert



**M A C
Award
Winning
Vocalist,
Lucille
Carr-
Kaffashan,**

brings her critically acclaimed cabaret show *Both Sides Now* to Central New Jersey with **David Brunetti** Musical Director & Accompanist, with Director **Lennie Watts** on **Saturday, September 10, 2005 at 8 p.m.** at the Van Wickle House. The program celebrates a diverse group

of composers such as Gershwin, Mercer, Comden and Green, Peggy Lee, Lerner and Loewe as well as more contemporary singer-songwriters such as Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, and Charles Aznavour.

Lucille has performed in NYC, New Jersey and New Hope, Pa. She has been described as "an entertaining performer, easy to listen to," with a voice that has "a sweet resonant sound that's both sexy and warm."

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$18 for seniors & groups of 5 or

more, and \$25 at the door

For reservations & information, call 732-560-1977. Tickets can be reserved by mailing a check along with your name, phone number, and the number of tickets requested to: The Meadows Foundation, c/o 1103 Conrad Way, Somerset, NJ 08873.

The show is part of the ongoing arts and culture series of *The Meadows Foundation*, well known for its top quality live entertainment. Tickets reserved in advance will be held at the door. Refreshments will be served.

New website design at www.themeadowsfoundation.org

In preparation for the 30th anniversary of the Meadows in 2006, the old website is getting a new look with added features. It is still a work in progress as we edit and replace some of the information.

The opening page has a series of house photographs that show all seven properties. Many photographs have been updated to show the progress at the various house restorations. Go through the houses to learn more detail. As the historic sites reports are completed, we will add more information.

There is a calendar of events and soon we hope to have an online donation capabilities as well as being able to accept credit card payments in advance for events.

Some links are not yet activated, but we encourage you to visit frequently as edits are made. This fall there will be a lot of activities, and the calendar of events will reflect those dates. A simple click on the date and event name will lead you to more details about the programs.

There is a listing of directions, too. If you have some information you would like to see incorporated in the website, please contact the publicity chair at info@themeadowsfoundation.org.

Tell you friends about this new website, and help drive traffic to the Meadows Foundation as we take this exciting step forward.

THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION
STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE

Living the past a future

The Meadows Foundation is a unique collection of seven historic properties and buildings restored by a group of volunteers. There are two early Dutch farmhouses, one pre-Revolutionary family tavern, two Civil War era farms, one bridgebuilder's house and one early Edwardian property all nestled in Central Jersey.

Each house is distinct in its architecture, and place in history. Ranging from 1722 through 1892, several properties reside along the Raritan River that once served as the transportation highway into the fertile farmland. These neighboring farms set inland from the river were almost submerged in a reservoir.

Each owner became an opportunity to expand the collection.

None of these properties would exist today if a group of dedicated and concerned citizens hadn't stepped forward to save the Van Wickles House from the wrecking ball. The Van Wickles property was called "The Meadows" and the group embraced the name for the organization.

The Meadows Foundation volunteers believe in the value of saving our nation's past and serve as stewards of these priceless historic homes. The properties are listed on the state and national historic registers. You are invited to learn more by clicking on "Houses."

Van Wickles House, 1722

Defen restoration.

Allen restoration.



British soldier's coat

Updates from the Volunteers by J. Lovel

Yesterday was a real marathon. Gary (Randolph) put together a mower from the old one for Van Liew. I cut the lawn with it and have to say it works like a dream. Much better than the old one. Someday we will have a John Deere at each house, but for now its great to have working machines at all houses. Not having to haul around the John Deere on the trailer really saved time and energy. Also with the Mower at Tulipwood, things are certainly looking better than last year.

Thank you Gary, and Jan (ten Broeke) for your donations of these mowers. If they are used with care, they should last until new ones can come along. If anyone feel like going for a ride,

remember to check the oil, and keep the deck at the highest setting. These mowers were not built to crash into obstacles like the John Deere has. Stumps, rocks, metal bars, will crush the sides of the deck and destroy the equipment.

I cut most of the lawn, but have left some of the lesser areas. There are just too many obstacles to worry about for now, The process takes about two hours. I will also bring the push mower over from Hageman barn, and it can be used to do the steep areas along the drive.

Hageman was next and I did the same thing. Only a strip of grass was cut around the side and back of the barn. Again the process

takes about two hours, or less. The porches look great..

If all the trash at the Hageman is cleaned up I thought I could put the trailer in one of the carriage house bays. This would clear out the Wyckoff garage leaving more room for the new projects there.

Lou Dima and I installed the oven, fridge which may have to be moved in front of the brick area. Lou put on the closet doors and installed a new faucet.

Lou and I headed out to see Van Liew before the sun went down. We will be back soon to have a takeout dinner there and relax for the sunset while we enjoy the work that has been done.

Note: this is one of many work reports emailed by John Lovel.

Hey! Where's John Lovel ?

Hey! Here I am. Over here .Oh that's' right. In case some of you haven't heard. I got married and moved. That's right I am no longer the Caretaker of the Van Wickle house. And for those of you who figure they would just bump into me over there, well now you will be able to bump into a new face. Welcome to the Van Wickle House Kenny Carmichel.

To help him feel comfortable about being the new caretaker, I spent some time with Kenny showing him around the house . Of course most of what I had to explain was about what not to do. Thus many statements of "And don't touch that or it can kill you" were generously unleashed for Kenny's well being.



John Lovel-Smith

Just kidding.

There's a lot of experience that nine years of living in the Van Wickle House has given me, and I will spend the time with Kenny to make his stay at the house just as enjoyable, even more so. I know that many of us who have known Kenny feel that he is very competent, and truly his talents will make him an important figure in the organization. For all my time at the Van Wickle House, one stream of thought summed up my entire experience. Imagine a plaque in every caretaker apartment with the words...

The place you reside belongs to the public, and its structure,

grounds and history are first to be cared for and preserved. All of this reflects your priorities and personality, because mostly you will be the first contact bridging the house with the public. Your opportunity here is to become part of the history of this structure, living on into the future, and your relationship with the Foundation will reflect how successful you are at this responsibility.

My wish for all of our new caretakers is that their experiences with these houses, and the organization lead to their true understanding of these words. Hope to bump into you all soon.

John is a faithful volunteer and former resident/caretaker of the Van Wickle House.

Dr. Bruce A. Hamilton feted May 20th at Cook College

On May 20. Dr. Bruce Hamilton was one of three recipients of the George Hammell Cook Distinguished Alumni Award, the highest honor presented by the Cook College Alumni Association.

Dr. Bruce A. Hamilton is an associate professor of landscape architecture, and is a well-recognized expert in ornamental horticulture. In 1976 he was one of the founding members of the Meadows Foundation. He has served on The Meadows Foundation board since its creation, and has held key leadership positions

including the presidency. He is the chair of the Van Wickle House. Bruce is responsible for the ecological emphasis and training facilities at The Van Wickle House. He brought many students to the Van Wickle house for study of the wetlands area between the house to the D&R Canal and Raritan River.

Another source of pride are the plantings and care of the triangle island located at the intersection of Easton Avenue and DeMott Lane. Dr. Hamilton and his wife, Ellen designed the planting scheme and credit volunteers under their guidance in the pruning, planting, watering

and weeding of the site.

Bruce Hamilton has garnered more awards from the students for his teaching than any other professor at Cook, including being selected Alpha Zeta Professor of the Year five separate times. He also was recognized by his peers with the Cook College Excellence in Teaching Award for 1994.

He is also a very active instructor in the Continuing and Professional Education "Short Course" program. He is in high demand throughout the state for talks at local Garden Clubs. Bruce accepted directorship of the Rutgers Gardens and helped it grow as an attraction visited by thousands.

FIRESIDE CHAT SERIES 2006

Saturday Jan 21 (1/21/06) - Robin Suydam, "Old Dutch Cemeteries in NJ." 2PM Tickets are \$10

Saturday Feb 18 (2/18/06) - Joe Becton, "The Underground Railroad in NJ" (Black History Month Celebration) 2PM Tx \$10

Saturday Mar 18 (3/18/06) - Jo Anne Tufo as "Mrs. Ben Franklin" (Women's History Month Celebration) 2PM Tx \$10

Saturday Apr 22 (4/22/06) - Fritz Hirschfeld discusses his new book *George Washington and the Jews* 2PM Tickets are \$10 each.

All will be at Van Wickle House.

Colonial Times in Franklin at the Wyckoff-Garretson House (continued from page 1)



eight "Hollanders" who came out to this region of New Jersey in 1701 from Brooklyn [*Breukelen*] and the Flatlands [*New Amersfort*]. He purchased 1200 acres and divided it into four farmsteads for his sons. Son John and his wife Gertje Stryker moved onto this property about 1709-10. Their first son, Cornelius, was born here in 1711. John Wyckoff built the first half of the house in 1740, and

Samuel Garretson built the second half in 1805. Learn the legacy of these two families, this Dutch anchor bent timbered house, and the extensive five years exterior restoration. Restoration work is ongoing. On site parking will be a \$5 donation per car.

For more information and to sign up for the dinner, contact: Iain Haight-Ashton 484-903-1318 or Mark Else 732-846-3345.

Carpooling is strongly advised.

Reservations necessary for the dinner on Saturday.

"Fireside Chats" Series

Fireside Chats Draw Large Audiences. More Plans for 2005

by Chris Retz

Our new wintertime historic programming series, "Fireside Chats," has met with wide success. This series of Saturday afternoon programs has drawn some new, welcome attention to the Meadows Foundation and its mission.

After well-received talks on Aaron Burr and Africans in the American Revolution, our attention turns to celebrating colonial American women. On Saturday, March 19, Stacy Roth



joined us for a program of lively music, prose, and poetry,



recounting the poignant lives of our foremothers. She accompanied herself on guitar and

concertina and the audience enjoyed a wonderful afternoon at the Van Wickle House.

The series concluded on Thursday, April 15, 8 p.m. when Rutgers University history professor Lloyd C. Gardner spoke about his book *The Case that Never Dies: The Lindbergh Kidnapping*. The audience enjoyed Dr. Gardner speak about aspects of the case that remain confusing to this day, such as Lindbergh's association with known mobsters and the mysterious doings of John Condon, chief witness for the prosecution. Tickets are \$10 each and reservations are made by calling 732-249-8374.

Series begins again in January 2006 see listing above.



THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION

STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE

1289 Easton Avenue
Somerset, New Jersey 08873

The Meadows Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to give the past a future by preserving and restoring historic sites with an emphasis on early Dutch and American heritage.

Phone 732-828-7418
www.themeadowsfoundation.org



Visit the houses to see the restorations.

The Meadows Foundation receives operating support and other grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, Somerset County Historic Commission, Franklin Township Open Space Commission and from generous businesses and individual donors.



NEW JERSEY
HISTORIC
TRUST

Join the Meadows Foundation. Be a part of the Legacy.

Your support is very important to The Meadows Foundation, stewards of Early Dutch and American Heritage. The organization is open to all, and operates to preserve historic buildings and grounds for public use. The properties that are being restored represent over two hundred-eighty years of American history. The Meadows does not own the houses or the land, but they work very hard to protect them for you, your family, and future generations.

This is your opportunity to support the heritage and traditions that laid the groundwork for a new nation. Many of these historic houses existed before the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. They were lived in by families who left their homelands for a new beginning.

Join The Meadows Foundation today.

Volunteer to help restore a house, participate in an event, educate a youngster, become a docent to give tours. Expand your horizons. Maybe you can give a few hours per month. Maybe you prefer to concentrate on one event per year, such as community time at Op-Cop, Bunny Jamboree, or Pumpkin Patch. Some of you are historians, teachers, craftsmen, actors, reenactors, accountants, or skilled in another way that could benefit the organization. We also welcome those who simply want to be members or make a donation, but prefer not to be actively involved. Let us know your preference. Tell us your suggestions for programming.

Remember to visit the properties often. You'll see lots of changes in 2004. **Be a part of the legacy.**

Renew or Become a Member of the Meadows Foundation

YES, please include me/us as member(s).

Enclosed is my/our tax deductible 501(c)(3) contribution.

- | | | |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| \$1000+ | Benefactor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$500 | Patron | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$250 | Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$100 | Donor | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$ 50 | Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$ 35 | Family | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$ 25 | Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$ 25 | Senior Couple | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| \$ 15 | Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 |



Businesses and organizations are asked to join at the \$100 level and above.

Name

Ph e-mail

Mailing address

City, State, Zip

Mail check and form to 1289 Easton Avenue, Somerset, NJ 08873

- I'd like to Volunteer for ... Docent ☐ Events ☐ Historian ☐
House Committee ☐ Bookstore ☐ Publicity ☐
This is a Donation Only ☐ (Not membership)
This is a renewal ☐