



THE MEADOW LARK

A MEADOWS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FALL-WINTER 2008

• SEPTEMBER •

13th & 14th - Civil War Encampment/ Living History
Re-enactors portray members of a famous New Hampshire Co. regiment that was one of the only regiments to fight in all theaters of the Civil War and return with their original regimental colors. \$5/carload -Sat, 9/13, 9-5pm; Sun. 9/14. 9-2pm.
Van Liew-Suydam House
280 S. Middlebush Road,
Somerset
732 690-6621

13th - Paper Mania/Book Sale
Our sale returns with historical documents, old local photographs, pamphlets, rare books, calendars, postcards, posters, and more
Free
10-4 p.m.
Blackwells Mills Canal House
Cor. Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Rd., Somerset
732-873-2133

21st - Hageman Farm Harvest Festival/Family Event.
This old-fashioned harvest festival will feature historic house tours, an apple pie contest, apple tasting, and 19th century games and crafts for children and adults. Parking donation.
Noon-4pm
Hageman Farm
209 S. Middlebush Road,
Somerset
908-447-8360

(For further information, concerning the above events, please contact us at www.themeadowsfoundation.org)

(Calendar cont. on pages 3, 5 & 7)

CIVIL WAR AT VAN LIEW-SUYDAM!

Van Liew-Suydam Farm to Host Living Civil War Event!!!

by Chris Retz, Fireside Chats Director

Many of you are, like me, Civil War buffs. Or perhaps you want your children and/or grandchildren to learn more about this fascinating, yet tragic time in America's history. You have a unique chance to further your knowledge with our first annual Living History Civil War event, scheduled for Sept. 13-14 at the Van Liew-Suydam Farm, 280 S. Middlebush Rd.

This thrilling weekend will be run by members of the 6th New Hampshire Volunteers, Company C. Stuart Zelman, vice president of this reenacting unit, said, "We portray the brave men who in November 1861 formed the 6th Regiment New Hampshire Volunteers. This regiment was one of the finest assembled from the State of New Hampshire and was on of the only regiments to fight in all theaters of the Civil War and return with their original regimental colors. A total of 2,574 men served in the 6th New Hampshire regiment. Of these, 187 men were killed and 231 died of disease. The regiment fought in more than 18 battles and produced 2 Medal of Honor winners."

(Continued on page 3)



The original regimental colors of the 6th New Hampshire Volunteers, Company C.

WINTER FIRESIDE CHATS PREVIEW



As you can see, we have a fun-filled calendar for your late summer/fall season, what with living history events, history book talks, a poetry reading, and traditional holiday activities for young and older alike.

Our winter 2009 Fireside Chats series is going to be very special too. To whet your appetite, I'll tell you about just two of the four winter programs. On Saturday, January 17, 2009 Gordon Ward returns to the Van Wickles House, 1289 Easton Ave., to discuss his new book, *Ghosts of Central New Jersey*. Come and find out what ghosts haunt the hills of our area.

Fans of Joe Becton won't be disappointed in his new program of American folk songs that he'll perform at Tulipwood, 1165 Hamilton St. on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

Both events begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 each per event. Reservations are strongly encouraged and can be made by calling 732-560-1977.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John Mullen, President Meadows Foundation



Best Regards,
John

Welcome to our fall 2008 edition of the Meadowlark. There has been great progress since the last issue of the Meadowlark as well as some organizational changes.

Bonnie Sovinee resigned from the Board of Directors, which left the 2nd Vice President (PR and Marketing Chair) vacant. Temporarily Evelyn Maron has agreed to assume these responsibilities. Steve Russell has joined the Board and has assumed the position of 3rd Vice President (Membership Chair).

Executive Director Mark Else has been working on the completion of a museum-quality restoration of the Wyckoff-Garretson House and has also spearheaded such important restoration projects at the Hageman Farm, including repainting the farmhouse as well as more major work on the dairy barn.

Kevin Williams will be caretaker at the Wyckoff-Garretson House, effective this month. Caretakers are already in place at Van Wickle, Hageman, and Tulipwood.

This is the end of my second-and last-term as your President (per our bylaws the president can serve a maximum of two consecutive two-year terms) so there will be a new President later this fall. During my eight years of involvement with the Meadows I am pleased with what has been accomplished and eager to be involved with the many more good years ahead.

Don't forget to check our calendar of events in this issue or on our Web site. Please renew your membership and consider upgrading to a higher level of membership. Thanks again for all of the support and generosity that we have been so fortunate to receive.

People's calendars fill up quickly. Don't miss any of our exciting events because you already have something planned. Send an e-mail to chrisflp@aol.com and write, "Yes, I want to be the first to get news of the Meadows upcoming events."

THE COOL WOMEN RETURN TO THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION

by Evelyn Maron, Arts & Culture Committee Chair

New Jersey's Cool Women Poets, who are unlike any other poets, will be returning for a reading at the Meadows Foundation at Tulipwood, 1165 Hamilton St., on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 2 p.m. The theme for the reading will be: "Over the River and through the Woods," appropriate for the season and setting in the beautiful, preserved Victorian-era house.

When the Cool Women appeared at Tulipwood in November 2007 for a reading entitled "This Old House," members of the audience were not prepared for the excitement of the jazz-like performance. Their style of reading is concert-like (jazz), with the performers demonstrating their individual styles as well as being part of the ensemble. The poets do not know which poem they will be reading until they interact with the others.

Central New Jersey poets in the group are Eloise Bruce, Juditha Dowd, Carolyn Foote Edelman, Joyce Lott, Lois Harrod, Betty Bonham Lies, and Judy Michaels. Although Penelope Schott has moved to Oregon, she continues her association with the group and returns for performances.

The poets have individually published numerous books and prose as well as poetry and readings on CDs. There are also three Cool Women anthologies and a new CD. Materials will be available at the Tulipwood performances. Members have also served as Poets in the Schools and Dodge Poets with the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Foundation. Light refreshments will be served after the reading, and conversations with the poets will be held after the performance.

Tickets to this wonderful afternoon event are \$10 each, including refreshments, and can be reserved by calling 732-560-1977, or by visiting our Web site, www.themeadowsfoundation.org



Eloise Bruce of Lawrenceville; Juditha Dowd, Sergeantsville; Carolyn Foote Edelman, Princeton; Joyce Lott, Rocky Hill; Lois Harrod, Hopewell; Betty Lies, Montgomery; Judy Michaels, Hillsborough; and Penelope Schott, of Portland, Oregon

• **OCTOBER** •

4th - John Cunningham/Book Talk and Signing. Winner of a Lifetime Achievement Award from Somerset County, noted NJ author John Cunningham discusses his latest book, *The Uncertain Revolution: Washington and the Continental Army at Morristown*

(Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing).

\$10, 2-4 p.m.
Van Wickle House
1289 Easton Ave., Somerset
732-690-6621

11th - Meadows' Banquet at Hageman Farm

Celebrate more than 30 years of "giving the past a future" at the historic Hageman Horse Barn. A sumptuous meal and lively music will entertain our guests.
6 p.m. , \$40 per person
Hageman Farm Barn
209 S. Middlebush Rd., Somerset
732-560-1977

11th - Fall Frolic for Children/Children's Event

Join us for the fun! Halloween pumpkins to decorate. The Canal House magician "Unbei" will amaze young and old with magic tricks. Prizes for all. An autumn day to remember.

Free
1-4 p.m.
Blackwells Mills Canal House
Cor. Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Rd., Somerset
732-873-2133

11th & 12th - Colonial Times Living History Weekend at Wyckoff-Garretson House

This beautiful house that dates to the 1730s has been restored to its original appearance. Tours will be available, as well as live music of the colonial era. This is part of the Somerset County "Weekend Journey Through the Past" event.
10-5 p.m., Sat., 10/11; 12-4, Sun. 10/12 - Parking \$5
Wyckoff Garretson House
215 S. Middlebush Rd., Somerset
732-846-3345

(For further information, concerning the above events, please contact us at www.themeadowsfoundation.org)

(Calendar cont. on pages 5 & 7)

HAGEMAN FARM HARVEST FESTIVAL

by MaryAnne McMillan, Hageman Farm House Chair



Hageman Farm, one of seven historic sites of the Meadows Foundation, will be hosting its first annual "Hageman Farm Harvest Festival" on September 21, 2008 from 1-5:00 pm. The event will be held rain or shine. The historic Hageman farmhouse will be open for tours led by a Meadows Foundation docent.

The farm is located at 209 South Middlebush Road, Somerset. The large farmhouse was built by Benjamin Hageman in 1861. The plan came from a pattern book popular in the 19th century. The style is Italianate/Victorian. Another house built from the same book, at about the same time, is still standing in Brooklyn, whose early inhabitants "colonized" this part of New Jersey in the early 18th century.



Recent photo of the Hageman farm house.

The Horse, Dairy, and Wagon barns were designed and built by Garretson Hageman in 1876-77. Garretson, the oldest son of Benjamin, was a graduate of the Rutgers University School of Engineering. All the barns are truly unique in style, as they use Dutch, English, and Victorian elements in their design. The barns are being restored for community use.



Hageman horse barn now.

The day will include a wide variety of family activities, including apple tasting, an apple pie contest, and children's games and crafts from the 19th century. The history of the heirloom apples that will be available for sampling will be discussed, and award ribbons will be presented to our apple pie contest winners. Refreshments will include apple cider, apple donuts, and coffee/tea. The event and refreshments will be free, but a parking donation of \$5 per carload is suggested.

Join us and be a part of our first Annual Hageman Harvest Festival! For details regarding the day, to volunteer or enter the Apple Pie contest, contact Margaret Papai at 732-403-5668 or MaryAnne McMillan at mcmam@ix.netcom.com or call 908-447-8360

Looking forward to seeing you on September 21st!

Van Liew-Suydam . . . continued from front page

At press time, the first demonstration on Sept. 13 is scheduled to start at 9am and will consist of firing demonstrations, as well as maneuvers. These will be followed by periods of music, and then lunch for the soldiers. We will be providing complementary bottles of water for those attending, which we ask you take home with you to recycle.

There will be another set of demonstrations after lunch and the camp will close to the public at 5. In between the demonstrations the soldiers will live their camp lives, perhaps whittling, perhaps oiling their rifles, and

you are most cordially invited to go up to them and ask any questions that you wish.

We chose to have this outdoor event at the Van Liew Suydam farm, the most recent part of which dates to 1875, partly to introduce the public to the site, and partly because of the sweeping, dramatic views this hilltop site commands.

Demonstrations will be held on Sunday in the late morning and then again around 2 p.m. Admission is \$5/carload.

For more information please call me at 732-748-7657 or you can e-mail me at chrisflp@aol.com

FINDING THE RIGHT RECIPE FOR RESTORATION

by Mark Else, Executive Director

In 1975 our only mission was to save the Van Wickle House (circa 1722) from becoming a strip mall. We soon began to learn that the history of this region started to take shape in the late 17th century when the Dutch started looking for new farmland in New Jersey.



Van Wickle house

The land had been acquired by Englishmen and laid out in two enormous sections. One of these was the Harrison Tract of 17,540 acres. This now a good part of Franklin Township. It is difficult to conceive that all the “good farmland” in Brooklyn had been taken in 1701. Eight “Hollanders” came out to the wilderness and purchased 10,000 acres from the Harrison Tract. It was to be divided up into farms for their sons. Cornelius Wyckoff purchased 1,200 acres breaking his up in four 300-acre farms. His son John farmed on one and in 1756 his son Cornelius sold part of his property to Barnardus Garretson.

Through marriage in 1861 it became the Hageman Farm. On these two historic farm sites, only two or three families have occupied the land for nearly 300 years. Our 18th-century Dutch farmhouses and outbuildings represent a part of our early Dutch heritage that has been largely neglected. It had to be preserved. As for restoration, the Van Wickle house was useable at the very beginning because it had been recently occupied. To be sure there were problems, but they were minor compared to what we would encounter on South Middlebush Road a few years later. The Hageman Farm, Wyckoff-Garretson, and Van Liew-Suydam houses had been badly used or vandalized before we took on their stewardship. Doors, windows, plumbing, stairways, electric, cabinets, hardware, etc. had been stolen, sometimes destructively removed. Only a few authentic period doors were left. At the time, we had no idea of the enormity of the task we had undertaken. However, we learned and have persisted. Thirty years later we are nearing the complete restoration of the three incredible 18th-century Dutch sites along South Middlebush Road.

None of us were familiar with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation and Restoration. It was necessary for us to learn so that we could apply for grants. There is a real difference between “renovation” and “restoration.” When you renovate a structure, if something is broken, rotted, or falling apart you replace it. With restoration, if something is broken, rotted, or falling apart you save what is sound and sister or patch in a similar wood (oak to oak), mud (mud to mud, “daub”), plaster (plaster to plaster), etc. This would apply to door sills, windows or doors, moldings, and on and on. In the Wyckoff-Garretson House, the front entry room and hall has eight doors. We found that they were all different sizes and styles.



Wyckoff-Garretson house 1998

We had only one to use for reproducing others. From evidence on each door frame, our restoration experts could determine what type and style of door was there.



Wyckoff-Garretson house now

Saving three historic sites, consisting of eight structures along South Middlebush Road, for future generations was a terribly challenging task, to say the very least. Old houses are very expensive to live in. But to restore several two- and three-hundred-year-old structures is an enormously expensive process. We were incredibly naive in terms of just how expensive it was going to be and how long it would take.



Van Liew-Suydam house before

This struggle started in real terms within the first couple of years. Hageman Farm and the Wyckoff-Garretson Farm were acquired in 1978. Ten years later the Van Liew-Suydam Farm was added. For several years the Hageman House Committee had been trying to raise funds to restore the barns through the “Save the Barns” program. Fifty to sixty thousand dollars had been raised, but this was a mere drop in the bucket of what we would need. Our first grant-writing effort was during 1991-92 when we applied for

... we had no idea of the enormity of the task ...

our first New Jersey Historic Trust grant for the Hageman Farm Horse Barn. This was a matching grant to the amount we had in the barn fund. The grant was just for stabilization of the Horse Barn foundation, sills, floors, and attached timbers. Out of these meager funds we also had to have an architectural firm assess the scope of work and write a plan for the restoration of all the barns. They projected what it would cost us to restore all the barns. It was overwhelming. At that time it was between two and three million dollars.

It was a challenge to get our minds around such a staggering sum, and how could we justify saving these barns if it was going to cost that much? Also, how were we going to maintain the buildings once they were restored? We had to have a business plan, a way to earn income to cover those substantial costs. That was when we were introduced to adaptive reuse. The adaptive reuse possibilities were totally unknown to us at the time. In the Department of Interior Standards for Historic Preservation there are provisions for restoring the exterior of buildings to their historic period, but to also be able to utilize the interior for other purposes. Altogether, we spent nearly two years developing a our plan for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the barns.

• **OCTOBER (cont.)** •

26th - Pumpkin Patch

Annual Halloween festival. The Dept. of Parks and Recreation will provide games and pumpkin decorating for children. Costumes encouraged. Haunted Forest!! Food will be for sale for the faint of heart.

Noon - 3pm

Van Wickle House

1289 Easton Ave., Somerset

732-249-6770

22nd - Theodore Roosevelt: His Life and Times

This lecture, music, and slide presentation covers the turbulent and exciting life of Theodore Roosevelt. Stories about other public figures of the time are also part of the program.

\$10

7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Tulipwood

1165 Hamilton St., Somerset

732-690-6621

• **NOVEMBER** •

8th - Cool Women Poets/Poetry Reading

New Jersey's Cool Women Poets, who are not like any other poets, will be returning for a reading. Their theme is: "Over the River and through the Woods."

\$10

2-4 p.m.

Tulipwood

1165 Hamilton St., Somerset

732-560-1977

15th - Holiday Sale

Not to be missed. Select from antiques, a large collection of jewelry, home gifts, collectibles, or a rare find for the book lover. Free

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Blackwells Mills Canal House

Cor. Canal Road and Blackwells

Mills Rd, Somerset.

732-873-2133

• **DECEMBER** •

6th & 7th - Biff Heins Memorial Art Show & Sale

The final art show of original watercolors, oils, and prints from the late Biff Heins and his father Hap Heins.

Free

Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sun. 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Blackwells Mills Canal House

Cor. Canal Road and Blackwells

Mills Rd., Somerset

732-873-2133

(For further information, concerning the above events, please contact us at www.themeadowsfoundation.org)

(Calendar cont. on page 7)



Hageman Horse Barn before

In 1994 we received our first funds for the Horse Barn. It took a couple years for us to accomplish the restoration specified for the Horse Barn. It was six or seven years before we could proceed with this restoration again. In 1998, we started writing grants for Somerset County's Historic Preservation Grant program. Since then, the restoration of the Horse Barn has nearly been completed and will be ready for use in the fall. In the meantime, we were writing grants for the restoration of the Wyckoff-Garretson House and Wagon Barn as well as the Van Liew-Suydam House and barn. We have received grants from the New Jersey Cultural Trust, Somerset County, and Franklin Township for these historic sites. In 2004 we wrote a joint grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust for the completion of the exterior of the Wyckoff-Garretson House and the complete restoration of the Hageman Dairy Barn. Through the years from 1991 to 2004 we had been granted enough matching funds to apply for \$749,579 from the New Jersey Historic Trust. To our complete surprise, they awarded us every dollar we requested.



Van Liew-Suydam house now

Since then, we have received \$583,320 more from the New Jersey Cultural Trust, Somerset County, and Franklin Township to complete the adaptive reuse of the Wyckoff-Garretson Wagon Barn, the restoration of the exterior of the Van Liew-Suydam House and barn, and the restoration of the exterior of Tulipwood, another Meadows house on Hamilton Street. Altogether, we have written \$2,472,275 in restoration grants for Meadows Foundation historic structures. There are still major adaptive reuse projects at these sites that will require additional grants and restoration. Some have already been written for the Hageman Farm Wagon Barn and the interior of the Van Liew-Suydam House. The march goes on!

Our most impressive adaptive reuse project will be the Hageman Farm Barns Multi-Purpose Meeting Facility. The adaptive reuse plan for these barns will include a large meeting area accommodating up to 158 people in the Horse Barn (ready for use), and

*we have written
\$2,472,275 in restoration
grants for the Meadows*

a banquet facility in the Dairy Barn. This will allow 80 people to eat banquet style or 158 in buffet style. A connection between the barns will be designed and built for guests to access the banquet and meeting floors of the two barns without going outside. What was formerly the milking suite on the ground level of the Dairy Barn will become a catering kitchen with a stairway and dumbwaiter to serve guests on what was formerly the hay floor. There is very good reason to believe that this site could furnish the Meadows Foundation with considerable income in the coming years. It is surrounded by actual meadows used by the dairy farm across from Hageman Farm. It is a beautiful site for weddings, corporate retreats, craft or art shows, dances, etc. On the outside, the barns will look like they did in 1876, but inside, alterations will be made for restrooms, storage, offices, and other work or meeting purposes (adaptive reuse).



Hageman Horse Barn now

At the Wyckoff-Garretson House, the adaptive reuse was to expand the Wagon Barn building out 16' in back to create a larger Resident Caretaker apartment on two floors. On the first floor, this will also allow us to provide public restrooms and an interpretive center for the site. The front of this building has been restored to its Wagon Barn appearance as it was in the 19th century.

Having these beautiful historic sites in Franklin Township not only adds greatly to the quality of life for the residents in Franklin, but for visitors from other parts of New Jersey, other states, and countries. It is a source of future tourism income that will benefit not only the Meadows and Franklin Township, but all the businesses that are required to support tourism. When that time comes, it would be nice to speculate on having regular living history programs going on in all our historic homes. Having unique Dutch houses means nothing without sharing the their stories of coming to New Netherlands in the 17th century, their 18th-century pioneering life in New Jersey and their lives well into the late 20th century. **5**

DUTCH HERITAGE *by Angela Fernan, Meadowlark Editor*



Gabled roofs with hoisting hooks



Retired windmill at Zaanse Schans



Hotdogs outside the Van Gogh museum



Entrance to the Rijksmuseum

Dutch heritage is alive and well in the Netherlands! I saw it firsthand on my May 2008 trip to Amsterdam. It was a treat to see the architecture of the city, which is vastly different from other European cities, such as Rome's Baroque style. But like Rome, traditional building forms have been maintained in the historic central districts. Archeologically speaking, while some finds do date back to Roman times, the village of Amsterdam itself was founded in 1275. The dams were first built in 1150 across the Amstel river and the village was originally known as Aemstredamme. Because of the methods of taxation, most of the older buildings are very narrow but oh so charming with their many gabled roofs, each has a beam and hook attached to the top of each.

Due to this narrowness, the width of the interior stairways are also exceptionally slim, (necessity being the mother of invention) this system was devised to hoist large items to the upper floors as most are four or so stories high).

The houses are built on pilings to keep them from sinking and every other street in Amsterdam is a canal with bridges crossing them. With the price of gasoline about \$9-\$12 a gallon and parking at a premium it is no wonder that most of the residents travel by bicycle. Their bikes have 29-30 inch wheels, no gears or hand brakes, the old back-pedal brake being the preferred method. The fact that the terrain is almost, perfectly flat makes biking an enjoyable method of travel. Of course, if you prefer, a pedicab is always available.

No, the citizens do not ride their bikes with wooden shoes on. Nor are there windmills on every corner. Today, modern windmills dot the countryside to provide electricity. The old windmills are retired to a village called Zaanse Schans. (Village on the river Zaan). They also transport the old farmhouses to this area too. The windmills are still in service and press seeds, etc. to make oil, and churn cream into fresh cheese, all of which can be purchased at the old houses, which have been turned into shops. They also make traditional wooden shoes there.

After roughing out a block of wood, it is put on a lathe and then carved into a shoe. The shoes range from bare wood to those hand-painted and carved, to some that are leather-topped. The origin of the shoe is that leather would rot in the wet terrain and with an abundant supply of wood handy it was only logical to make shoes out of wood. Some of the modern farmers still use them.

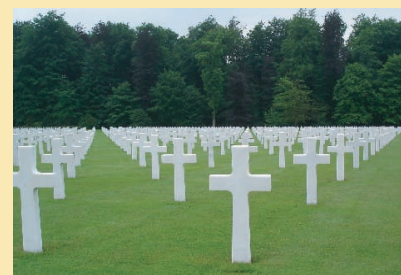
"While the Dutch don't mind their country being called Holland...Holland is actually a region in the west of the country. The correct name for the country is 'The Netherlands'."

Carter and Dunston, Best of Amsterdam

The tulip season was already gone by the time I arrived but bulbs were abundant in the flower market. One would expect tulips to be the major export for the Netherlands, but actually it is beer, with Heineken topping the list! A traditional Dutch delicacy is raw herring (taken from the first catch of the season) and onions. Amsterdam is a very cosmopolitan city of mixed ethnicities, with their cuisine reflecting the variety. One can find anything from escargot to spaghetti, falafel, and even hot dogs. There are still plenty of places, though that serves a more traditional Dutch fare of pork dishes, cheeses, and pancakes. A Dutch pancake and is more like a very large crepe, served flat on a dinner plate with a variety of toppings availa

Of course, no visit to Amsterdam would be complete without visiting the museums housing the works of their favorite native sons. According to Carter and Dunston's The Best of Amsterdam, the Rijksmuseum is considered the "Louvre of Amsterdam" [and] is the Netherlands' largest and most important museum, with a collection of more than a million objects of art including paintings dating from 1400-1900. It has various rooms devoted to their most renowned painters: Rembrandt and his pupils Frans Hals and Johannes Vermeer. Their most famous native son, Vincent Van Gogh, is well represented at the Van Gogh Museum.

Memories of WWII are never far behind, with the Anne Franck Huis in town and American military cemeteries outside of town. It makes one realize that the bond between our two countries is not just one of shared heritage but share history.



WW II American military cemetery outside Amsterdam

• **DECEMBER (cont.)** •
7th - Sinterklaas/Children's Event

Join us for a visit by Sinterklaas, the traditional Dutch Santa Claus. Parking donation.
 1 - 4 p.m.
 Van Wickel House
 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset
 732-249-6770

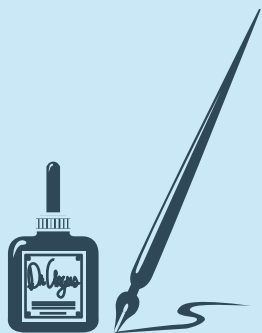
14th - Olde Fashioned Christmas/Family Event

The Olde Fashioned Christmas at Hageman Farm will feature tours of the historic house, participation in making tree decorations, children's holiday crafts, music, punch, and cookies. Parking donation.
 1 - 4 p.m.
 Hageman Farm
 209 S. Middlebush Rd. Somerset
 908-447-8360

• **JANUARY, 2009** •
1st - New Year's Day Open House

Our long-time tradition continues! The Blackwells Mills Canal House is open wide for the New Year's celebration. Greet old friends and make new ones. Savor homemade refreshments. 1-4 p.m. Free
 Blackwells Mills Canal House
 Cor. Canal Road and Blackwells Mills Rd., Somerset
 732-873-2133

(For further information, contact us at www.themeadowsfoundation.org).



FIRESIDE CHATS INAUGURATE POPULAR FALL SEASON

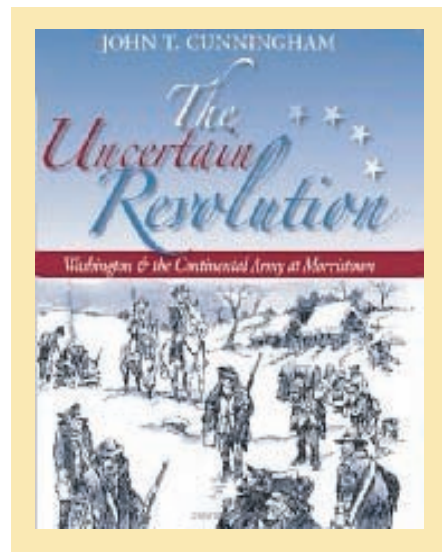
by Christine Retz, Fireside Chats Director

One winter Fireside Chats series has proved to be so attractive that we have added two events for this autumn by popular demand.

The crisp autumn days with their bright leaves and hint of winter soon to come are the perfect time to gather to discuss people and places of the Revolutionary War. We are very pleased to have secured John Cunningham, one of the founders of the New Jersey Historical Commission, as our speaker on Saturday, October 4, 2 p.m. at the Van Wickel House, 1289 Easton Ave. His topic this cozy afternoon will be his most recent book, *The Uncertain Revolution: Washington and the Continental Army at Morristown*. He will explore the overlooked Revolutionary War winters of General George Washington's army encampments at Morristown and nearby Middlebrook. He makes the case that the Continental Army and the American Revolution may have survived from 1777 until 1781 because of the geological fortress of New Jersey's Watchung Mountains and because of the residents of the region's small towns and farms. He also explores the founding of the country's first National Historical Park in 1933 to preserve the physical places where Washington and his army survived in the Watchungs.



Two winter seasons ago we all enjoyed Charles McSorley's excellent multimedia presentation on Mathew Brady, which included the very rare dirge from Lincoln's funeral. We are



Copies of the book cost \$25 each and will be available for sale and signing that afternoon.

Tickets to this "must-attend" event are \$10 each, including refreshments, and can be reserved by calling 732-560-1977, or by visiting our Web site:

www.themeadowsfoundation.org

going to have an equally absorbing evening on Wednesday, October 22, 7 p.m. at Tulipwood, 1165 Hamilton St. when Mr. McSorley presents

"Theodore Roosevelt: His Life and Times as Seen Through Political Cartoons, Postcards, and Pictures of the Period." This lecture, music, and slide presentation covers the turbulent and exciting life of Theodore Roosevelt, America's 26th president. Stories about other public figures of the times are also part of the program. You won't want to miss this event, coming as it does on the eve of our national election.

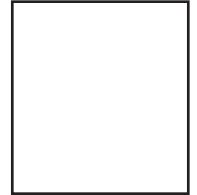
Tickets to this timely, exciting event are \$10 each, including refreshments, and can be reserved by calling 732-560-1977, or by visiting our Web site: www.themeadowsfoundation.org

WHY I JOINED THE MEADOWS by Steve Russell, Membership Vice President

I have been asked, "Why did you become a member of the Meadows Foundation?" My response is fairly simple. Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn more about the history of our area, share your skills and experiences with others, and most importantly, an opportunity to preserve our heritage.

The homes that we are responsible for are of such historical importance that we should feel privileged to preserve and protect them. These are hidden treasures that are right in the backyard of our community.

To this end, we need members that can support us. Either in volunteering their time and/or with their donations. My goal is to develop and enhance our membership roster. My hat is off to our current members and I look forward to working with our new members.



The Meadows Foundation is a 501c3 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.
www.themeadowsfoundation.org
 ph. 732-828-7418

The Meadows Foundation receives operating support and other grants from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State: NJ Historic Trust, Somerset County Historic Commission: Franklin Township Open Space Commission and from generous members, individuals and business donors.

NJHS



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HISTORIC
TRUST



Join Us At The Meadows For Family Fun



FUN FOR ALL AT THE ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH FESTIVAL

Grandparents, children, and grandchildren alike are most cordially welcome to our annual Pumpkin Patch Festival, run in cooperation with the *Franklin Township Parks & Recreation Dept.*

This year's spooky happening will be held on Sunday, Oct. 26, 12-3 p.m. at the Van Wickle House, 1289 Easton Ave. The event will include a costume parade, pumpkin decorating, games, prizes, and fun for all. Admission is \$3/person. Children 2 and under come for free.

SINTERKLAAS FESTIVAL OPENS THE WINTER HOLIDAYS

No holiday season in central New Jersey would be complete without the annual Meadows Sinterklaas festival on Sunday, December 7, at the Van Wickle House, 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset. This traditional Dutch festival will run from 1-4 p.m. and will feature small gifts for children. Please call 732-249-6770 for more information. Parking donation.



OLDE-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS RETURNS TO HAGEMAN FARM

There is something charming about an olde-fashioned Christmas, filled with family events such as popcorn-stringing, gift-making, warm refreshments, and singing traditional carols around the tree. Please join us at the Hageman Farm, 209 S. Middlebush Rd., on Sunday, December 14, 1-4 p.m. when we journey back to yesteryear. The famous Franklin High School Madrigals will be our special guests. Parking donation.