



THE MEADOW LARK

A MEADOWS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SUMMER-SPRING 2010

• March •

20th - Rosie the Riveter
Sat. 3/20, 2 p.m.
\$10 Admission
Van Wickle House

27th - The Fisk Jubilee Singers
Sat. 3/27, 2 p.m.
\$10 Admission
Hageman Farm

• April •

3rd - Bunny Jamboree
Sat. 4/3 - 10 a.m.
Van Wickle House

17th - Colonial Hearth Cooking
Sat. 4/17, 2 p.m.
\$10 Admission
Wyckoff-Garretson House

• May •

1st - Queen's Day
Sat. 5/1 - 11 a.m.
\$5 Parking
Van Wickle House

15th - The Washington-Rochambeau Route in NJ, August-Sept. 1781
Sat. 5/15, 2 p.m.
\$10 Admission
Van Wickle House

• September •

10-12th - Civil War Reenactment
Fri.-Sun. - 9/10 - 10/12
\$5 Parking
Van Liew Suydam

25th - American Spies of the Revolutionary War
Sat. 9/25 - 2 p.m.
\$10 Admission
Van Wickle House

• October •

9th-10th - Colonial Times
Sat.-Sun. - 10 a.m.
Wyckoff-Garretson House

23rd - The D&R Canal
Sat.-10/23 - 2 p.m.
\$10 Admission
Van Wickle House

Addresses are posted
at the end of the calendar.
(Calendar continues on page 3)

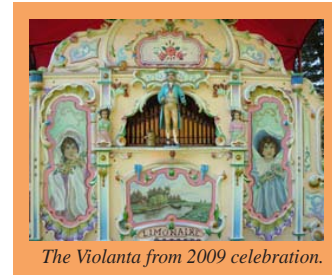
KONINGINNEDAG COMES TO THE VAN WICKLE HOUSE

A Celebration of the Birthday of the Queen of the Netherlands

By Ellen Hamilton

Queen's Day is a national holiday in the Netherlands. This commemoration of the Queen's birthday on April 30 is the most celebrated holiday in the country. Every town has a street fair where anybody can sell anything from rummage to fine jewelry. Other activities include children's games, craft demonstrations, individual music performances, concerts and dancing. The color of the day is orange in honor of the Dutch royal family name, the House of Orange. There are orange flags, orange food and drink, orange clothing and even orange hair. Queen Beatrix and her family visit one or two of these fairs each year.

The Meadows Foundation is going to celebrate Queen's Day on May 1, 2010 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Van Wickle House. The fair will feature the Violanta barrel organ, the van Wickle Dutch Dancers, and the Somerset Jazz Consortium.



The Violanta from 2009 celebration.

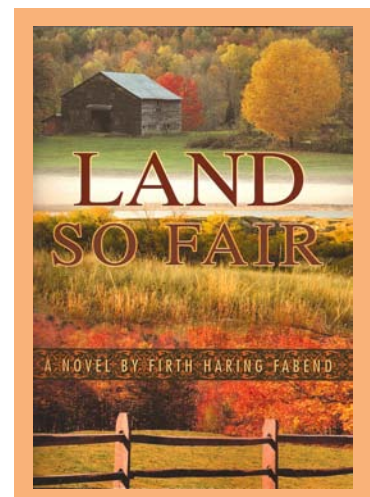
The highlight of the program will be Firth Habend, who will present a lecture on Dutch history. There will be informal talks throughout the day including the story of the Violanta and a demonstration of the variety of traditional Dutch dress.

There will be authentic Dutch games for children and a hands on craft for children and adults. The yard will be filled with vendors of arts and crafts and collectibles. A Dutch lunch of cold cuts, cheese and bread, including orange colored snacks and drinks will be available.

NOTED NOVELIST FEATURED AT QUEEN'S DAY

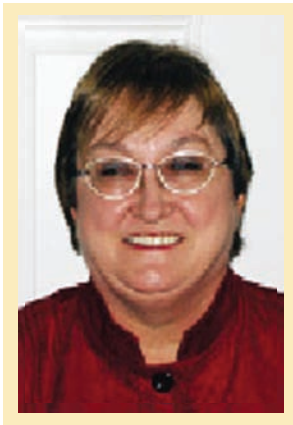
We are going to have many terrific things for you to enjoy at Queen's Day. One event that you don't want to miss is the presentation by Firth Haring Fabend, well-known to the Dutch American community, and author of *Land So Fair*. The book is "a family saga set in New Netherland and colonial New York and New Jersey as Revolution approaches and peace falls prey to political passions. The family is the author's own family (she is the eleventh generation of it). Constant threats to their land, feared and fearful slave uprisings, and the inevitability of impending Revolution define their daily lives, creating conflicts for them—and an exciting read for the book-lover."

Ms. Fabend will speak about her book at the celebration and copies will be available for sale (\$20 each) and signing.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Christine Retz, President Meadows Foundation



*Regards,
Chris*

The new year has been one of steady progress at the Meadows, despite weather-related programming changes. Our properties are being rented and I urge you to check our Web site for information on both third-party and residential rentals. Income is vital to us.

The winter was a busy one too insofar as we have worked hard to round out our 2010 program schedule for you, our loyal audience. It's always fun to see "regulars" as well as newcomers to our monthly programs and I know you will be pleased at what we have planned for your enjoyment.

If you haven't yet joined the Meadows there is still time to get in on the action. Membership material is enclosed in this newsletter and when people attend events with their membership card in hand there is a 10% discount on admission. So don't delay. Join today!

*I look forward to welcoming you personally at our many events this programming year. Please make your events' reservations early, as many events quickly sell out. If you are not on our e-mail list, please contact me at **chrisflp@aol.com** and I will gladly add you.*

WEARING ICONS

By Angela Fernan

Ask anyone what they consider an icon of Dutch culture, and most certainly the answer would be wooden shoes! The wooden shoe has been a staple of Dutch couture since medieval times. They started out as just wooden soles topped with leather, then made entirely of wood. Necessity being the mother of invention: how better to protect the foot than to encase it in a hard material? Imagine being a farmer or fisherman 700 years ago. Sharp rocks, nails, fishing hooks, scythes or any other sharp instrument will easily pierce a regular boot but not a wooden shoe. Working around large animals fosters many foot injuries but a wooden shoe would help prevent permanent damage. Also the foot would remain dry in wet conditions.



Above - Wooden clogs used by dancers.

Left - Klompen dancers at the Queen's birthday celebration, 2009.

In Holland, wooden shoes became part of the traditional costume and gave birth to clog dancing or Klompendanskunst. The clogs made for dancing are a bit different from those used industrially. They are made of a lighter wood such as ash, and are cut lower by the ankle. The Meadows Foundation will feature Klompen dancers at their next event.

HELP GIVE THE PAST A FUTURE!!

• **October, Cont.** •
24th - Pumpkin Patch
 Sun. 10/24 - Noon
 Van Wickle House

• **November** •
20th - A Spirited War
 Sat. 11/20 - 2 p.m.
 \$10 Admission
 Van Wickle House

• **December** •
4th - The War Man
 Sat. 12/4 - 2 p.m.
 \$10 Admission
 Wyckoff-Garretson House

5th - Sinterklaas
 Sun. 12/5 - 1 p.m.
 \$5 Parking
 Van Wickle House

- **Hageman Farm/Barn**
 209 S. Middlebush Rd.
- **Tulipwood**
 1165 Hamilton St.
- **Van Liew-Suydam**
 280 S. Middlebush Rd.
- **Van Wickle House**
 1289 Easton Ave.
- **Wyckoff-Garretson House**
 215 S. Middlebush Rd.



STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE

Hi Folks,

Your support is very important to the Meadows Foundation. The organization is open to all and preserves historic buildings and grounds for public use. The properties being restored represent over 280 years of American history. The Meadows does not own the houses or the land, they belong to the local and State government. The Meadows does work very hard to protect them for you, your family, and for future generations. We are supported primarily through membership dues, voluntary donations, our own fund-raising events, and grants from local and State agencies.

We need volunteers to help restore a house; participate in an event; become a docent to give tours. Some of you are historians, teachers, craftsman, re-enactors, accountants or skilled in another way that could benefit the organization. We also welcome those who just want to make a donation but prefer not to be actively involved.

The Meadows Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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.

The Meadows Foundation meets this mission by:

- Fully restoring Meadows Foundation historic sites
- Providing public, educational and cultural programs
- Encouraging public appreciation for local heritage and vernacular architecture
- Supporting environmental concerns by preserving open space, farmland and historic sites

Our membership year runs from January to December. As a volunteer organization it is difficult to keep track of memberships that are made during various times of the year. Please help us by sending your renewals in before the end of December. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

For further information please contact us at: www.themeadowsfoundation.org

**Renew
or become
a member
of the
Meadows
Foundation**



Mail Check and form to:



STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE
 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Enclosed is my/our tax deductible 501c3 contribution.

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

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Ph. _____ e-mail _____

I'd like to volunteer for:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Docent <input type="checkbox"/> | House Committee <input type="checkbox"/> | Events <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historian <input type="checkbox"/> | Bookstore <input type="checkbox"/> | Publicity <input type="checkbox"/> |

This is a non-membership donation only ☐ This is a Renewal ☐

Businesses and Organizations are asked to join at the \$100 level or above. Thank you!



STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE

1289 Easton Ave., Somerset, New Jersey 08873

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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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HELP HISTORY COME ALIVE, JOIN US AT THE MEADOWS



PUMPKIN PATCH

Join us for our annual Halloween festival on Saturday, October 24th, from noon - 3 p.m. at the Van Wickle House. Come see our ghosties and ghoulies, spooky woods, painting pumpkins and other great holiday treats.

SINTERKLAAS

Join us for our annual family-oriented celebration of the Dutch Christmas, on Sunday, December 5th at 1 p.m. at the Van Wickle house. St. Nicholas would come to visit the children and discover who's been naughty and nice. There will be Dutch crafts, food and *klompen* dancers too!



KONINGINNEDAG

Help us celebrate the Queen's birthday on Sunday, May 1st, (starting at 11 a.m.) in the best Dutch tradition. There will be goods for sale and goodies to eat while listening to the Violanta play!

For further information on all events, contact us at www.themeadowsfoundation.org