



THE MEADOW LARK

A MEADOWS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SPRING-SUMMER 2011

• 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)

SPRINGTIME MEANS TEATIME! By Angela Fernan

First Annual Tea to be Held at The Van Liew-Suydam House

On Saturday, April 30, the Meadows Foundation will be presenting its first Victorian tea at the Van Liew-Suydam (VLS) house from 2-4 p.m. We will be serving four different kinds of teas and we have contracted with Teaberry's of Flemington to provide their famous tea sandwiches. There will also be homemade baked goods – scones with clotted cream and preserves, as well as cakes, cookies, and chocolates. Those who prefer their tea cold will also find iced tea available.

For those of you who haven't been to VLS recently, or have seen it only from afar, you are in for a memorable afternoon. The exterior has been fully restored to its former beauty and stories of its glory days will be recounted by former resident Marie Vajo, who grew up at VLS when it was a farm. John Mullen, the immediate past president of the Meadows, will discuss the vernacular architecture of the building, and as a special treat Victorian specialist Justine Jackson will give a presentation on the unique styles of dress of the Victorian era.

This event is a wonderful way to honor your mother, daughters, and all female relatives and friends who have made an impact on your life. Help us preserve the past by ensuring the future of this lovely property.

Tickets to this charming and fun-filled afternoon are \$25/person. Checks can be sent to The Meadows Foundation, 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873. You will receive your tickets by return mail. Sorry, but we cannot accept walk-ins at this event.



Please Join Us For Our
Springtime Tea
At The
VAN LIEW-SUYDAM HOUSE



Located at: 280 S. Middlebush Rd., Somerset, NJ

Saturday, April 30th, 2011, 2-4pm
Bring Mom for an early Mother's Day treat!

Menu: Teas, finger sandwiches (from Teaberrys), scones with clotted cream and preserves plus desserts

Speakers will be on hand to explain the architecture and life in the Van Liew-Suydam House during the Victorian era.

\$25 per person for food, speakers and surprises.

Yes, I would love to attend the Springtime Tea!

NAME _____ No.Attending _____

ADDRESS _____

I HAVE ENCLOSED MY CHECK FOR (\$25 X NUMBER OF PEOPLE) _____

TO RECEIVE YOUR TICKETS, PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR CHECK, MADE PAYABLE TO :

THE MEADOWS FOUNDATION,
1289 EASTON AVE., SOMERSET, NJ, 08873

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Christine Retz, President Meadows Foundation



*Yours Warmly,
Chris Retz*

As I write this I am looking forward to our wonderful first tea party on April 30, which will be held at our lovely Van Liew Suydam property, with its spectacular views of the nearby Sourland Mountains. Details about this sparkling afternoon are elsewhere in this newsletter.

That afternoon is the culmination of yet another gloriously successful Meadows Foundation programming year, one that treated audiences to a wide variety of entertaining and informative programs on everything from the Civil War to the sinking of the General Slocum, from Marc

Mappen's glittering talk at our the Colonial Times banquet to our annual Sinterklaas celebration, which starts the holiday season for children of all ages.

After a summer hiatus, we'll be back in touch with you in August with details of our 2011-12 programming year. We thank you for your support and encourage you to contact me about joining in our efforts in preserving the past for the future.

If you are not on our e-mail list, and would like to be added please be sure to contact me at chrisflp@aol.com

Christine Retz has been named the 2011 "Outstanding Woman of the Year" in the Volunteerism category by the Somerset County Commission on the Status of Women.

THE DUTCH IN FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP

The Dutch investors who purchased land in the Raritan Lots, Harrison Tract and elsewhere in Franklin formed the largest group of early township settlers. They were typically third- and fourth-generation colonists who came from New York settlements in what are today Long Island, Brooklyn, and Ulster County.

The Dutch were farmers as opposed to merchants. They preferred to produce food, leaving trade to the Scots and the English. The New Jersey Dutch settled close to one another and remained fairly insular for many years. They retained their religious practices, Dutch language or accent, agricultural methods and some customs from Holland for a surprisingly long time. The Dutch language was used in early 18th century township tax and church records.

The Dutch had a tremendous impact on the early development of the township. This is evident in the overwhelming number of Dutch surnames, especially in the 1700s, the rise of the Dutch Reformed church, and the Dutch architecture.

A sampling of Dutch names: Van Voorhees, Van Wickle, Van Liew, Van Doren, Van Duyn, Van Nostrand, Van Nest, Vliet, Van Dyke, Polhemus, Hoagland, Hegeman, and Van Pelt.



In 1717 the Reformed congregation built its first church at what is now Elm Ridge Cemetery. Tradition has it that the church was a hexagonal building with a roof that started near the ground and ran up from all sides to a common point. It stood on the part of the cemetery where the John S. Voorhees plot is located. The church, which faced the Old Road/Indian

Path, was never finished. It had weather boarding, a roof, but only a dirt floor. Members of the congregation sat on long benches that ran parallel to the north and south walls. Or they brought their own chairs—the same ones they sat on in the wagons they rode to church. The church had no stove or fireplace. The men kept warm by stamping their feet. The women brought along foot stoves.

In 1720, Rev. Theodorus Jacobus Frelinghuysen was assigned all the Reformed churches in Somerset, Middlesex, and Hunterdon counties. He preached at Six Mile Run Reformed Church for about 20 years. He was succeeded by Rev. Johannes Leydt in 1748. The congregation's second church was built in 1766 on the site of the present church in Franklin Park. That structure stood for 50 years. It was replaced in 1817 with the church that was destroyed by fire in January 1879. The present church was dedicated in December 1879.

(Material for this article is from Franklin Township, Somerset County, NJ: A History, by William B. Brahms, © 1998, Franklin Township Public Library and is reprinted with permission.)



Sketch of early Six Mile Run Reformed Church - 1703

HELP GIVE THE PAST A FUTURE!!



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.

To contact the Meadows Foundation - President: Christine Retz, 732-748-7657; chrisflp@aol.com

• **Hageman Farm/Barn**
209 S. Middlebush Rd.

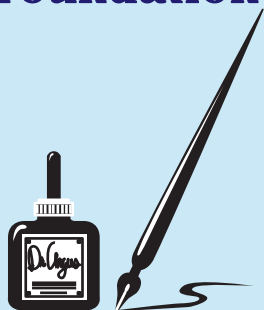
• **Tulipwood**
1165 Hamilton St.

• **Van Liew-Suydam**
280 S. Middlebush Rd.

• **Van Wickle House**
1289 Easton Ave.

• **Wyckoff-Garretson House**
215 S. Middlebush Rd.

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



Mail Check and form to:



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

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.

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HELP HISTORY COME ALIVE, JOIN US AT THE MEADOWS



SPRINGTIME TEA

Join us for our first Springtime tea at the Van Liew-Suydam house on Saturday, April 30th from 2-4 pm. Price, only \$25 for tea, sandwiches from Teaberry's, home made cakes and much more. There will also be speakers on Victorian dress and architecture. Hurry, tickets are going fast!!! Sign up for our November Holiday Tea too!!

SINTERKLAAS

Join us for our annual family-oriented celebration of the Dutch Christmas, on Sunday, December 4th 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!



COLONIAL TIMES

Find out what it was truly like during our Colonial times on Sat./Sun, October 8th and 9th at the Wyckoff-Garretson House.

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

