



The Heritage Trail Association Inc.

The Historic Van Horne House

941 East Main Street

Bridgewater, NJ 08807

NEWS AND MUSINGS FROM ATOP "PHIL'S HILL" ON THE OLD YORK ROAD

IN THIS ISSUE

Spring Happenings

by David Lang

Bridgewater NJ, April 27, 2018

The calendar says spring is here, so why does the spring edition of the HTA Quarterly depict a snow-covered Van Horne House? Because Phil's Hill was snow covered by nor'easters in March four times! I snapped the photo above on March 22, 2018, the second official day of spring. The delayed arrival of spring reminds me that calendars once started the New Year on March 25th.

Back in 1752 when the Van Horne House was probably still new construction (we don't know the exact year it was built), England adopted the Gregorian calendar. Eleven days were dropped from the calendar and New Year's Day was moved from late March to January 1st. Even after this change, colonial era farm records and diaries continued to reference the 'old style.' For a time farmers celebrated New Year's twice per year. This change from marking time by the weather and the change of seasons to the astronomical movement of the earth,

sun and moon continued into the 20th century.

We find ourselves in the 21st century telling universally synchronized time with devices stashed in our purses or pockets. We have the exact time at our fingertips day and night, but as a home gardener, my gardening year still begins in the spring. From January to March I mark time. January brings a slew of seed and plant catalogs to our mailbox. By February I'm rationing the fruit preserves my wife put up last fall. In March I wait and watch the weather for the last predicted frost in hopes of getting back into the dirt.

April is the first reliable planting month most years. Radishes and lettuce will provide a first harvest well before the official first day of summer. This spring nature has other ideas it seems. The weather historians say April 2018 will have the coldest average temperature since official records were kept back in the 19th century. It's been a long winter season. When I finally get my first seeds and plants into the ground I may just have to yell out Happy New Year!



241st Commemoration of the

Battle of Bound Brook The 241st commemoration of the battle of Bound Brook living history weekend took place on April 14th and 15th 2018. The battle actually came to the Van Horne's front door!

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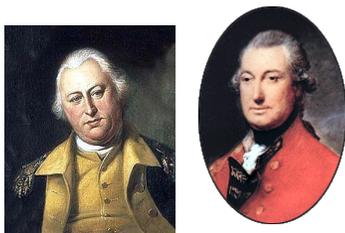
D&R Canal Double Dipping

Canal enthusiast Linda Barth presented a seminar and slide show on April 8th.

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B.O.B.B. FAST FACTS

- By April 1777 General Cornwallis was being forced to send foraging parties out in almost Brigade strength. (3,000 men).
- Angry and frustrated, he instructed his Hessian Jaeger Capt. Johann Ewald to plan an attack against the town of Bound Brook.
- Captain Johann Ewald planned the battle and recorded it in detail in his diary.
- Capt. Ewald was selected for his detailed knowledge of the town, its roads and inhabitants.
- Capt. Ewald wrote love letters to Jeannette Van Horne, Phillip's daughter, between January 30, 1777 and August 7, 1778.
- The attack occurred on Palm Sunday, April 13, 1777.
- Lt. General Charles Cornwallis led the attack on the Van Horne House.
- The British captured 3 field artillery pieces from the Americans during the battle.
- The British never consolidated their gains after the Battle of Bound Brook, preferring to withdraw to New Brunswick after their avenging strike.



American General Benjamin Lincoln, (left) headquartered at the Van Horne House, escaped capture by British General Cornwallis (right) during the Battle of Bound Brook

The Battle of Bound Brook

By Lazarus Turner

In January of 1777, British forces reinforced with Hessian troops occupied New Brunswick, New Jersey and conducted foraging raids against local targets with little success. New Jersey militia heartened and emboldened by Washington's victories at Trenton and Princeton had taken all they could stand from their British and Hessian occupiers. New Jerseyans took every opportunity to impede and deny the British the plunder of their homes and farms.

It was plunder the British planned to use to sustain them while they occupied New Brunswick. In his book *Washington's Crossing*, David Hackett Fischer describes 18th-century plundering. It was never totally promiscuous. Its rules were generally enforced by officers who tended not to stop it but to regulate it. Hessian Jaeger Captain Johann Ewald wrote: "The first rule of plundering was that unoccupied houses could be stripped clean The second rule that resistance or even impudence was grounds for aggravated plunder The Third rule personal possessions of a military person were lawful booty but these things if taken from a Civilian were illegal and loot. The Forth Rule was that families in their homes should not be plundered of all their possessions but left enough so they did not starve." Plundering in NJ grew out of hand. Plunder became pillage and pillage became rape.

General George Washington at this time held the Continental Army north near Morristown. His southern outpost on the Raritan River and closest to the 17,000 British troops in New Brunswick was his outpost garrison of about 1,000 men at Bound Brook, under the command of Major General Benjamin Lincoln. Lincoln deployed his troops at every bend in the Raritan to within

sight of Raritan Landing. His strong point was a redoubt and half-moon battery commanding approaches to the Queen's bridge across the Raritan River and the stone bridge across the Green Brook.

As his foraging strategy was foiled and frustrated, General Charles Cornwallis wished to mount a punitive attack against the Americans at Bound Brook and General Lincoln at the Van Horne House.

He tasked Jaeger Capt. Johann Ewald to plan the attack. Ewald must have been very familiar with the Van Horne home and Bound Brook, since he was penning love Letters to Jeannette Van Horne, Phillip's daughter, from as early as January 30, 1777. We do not know the extent of the relationship as none of her replies survive.

The four-pronged attack commenced in the wee hours of Palm Sunday, April 13, 1777. The resulting engagement had as many combatants as the battles of Trenton or Princeton. The Van Horne family found itself on the front lines of the war. Cornwallis himself led the attack to capture General Lincoln, who barely escaped.

By April the American ranks had fallen to 500 men due to illness and attrition from expiring enlistments. They presented a "murderous fire" from the redoubt, according to Ewald's diary but were soon overwhelmed by superior numbers of British and Hessians.

The British never consolidated their gains after the Battle of Bound Brook, preferring to withdraw to New Brunswick after their avenging strike.





Spring Calendar

by HTA Programs Committee

From the Editor:

All photographs appearing in *HTA Quarterly* are taken by members of the HTA unless otherwise noted.

See errors or omissions? Information is the best available at the time of publication. If you spot one, please contact the editor at: info@heritagetrail.org

The Heritage Trail Association offers a variety of educational and innovative programming such as bus & walking tours, lectures, symposia, reenactments, outreach to the underserved populations within the county, and special exhibits at our headquarters, the historic Van Horne House.

We also offer schools, clubs, and organizations the opportunity to arrange customized historic tours. Schools or organizations can choose a geographic area in Somerset County, or a specific theme (e.g. "Heroines and Celebrities," "Visions and Inventions," "Landed Gentry," etc.). To find out more, please contact us at (732) 356-8856.



2018 Heritage Trail Forecast of Events

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
May	Sunday, May 06, 2018	humanities program, Jonathan Mercantini, pre-post rev war FREE
June	Saturday, June 09, 2018	Hosting The League of New Jersey Historical Societies
June	Sunday, June 10, 2018	Center for Historic Arts--David Niescisor, tailor at the Old Barracks. \$40.00 includes materials to make a handstitched men's cap
June	Thursday, June 18 2018	Spirit Day with the Somerset Patriots at the TD Bank Ballpark, 7:00 p.m.
July	Saturday, July 07, 2018	3 rd . annual picnic on the lawn free; stay to watch the fireworks at TD Bank Ballpark.
August		Vacation
September		TBA
October	Sunday, October 21 2018	Susan Feibush, Presidents' pets program—bring the kids
November	Sunday, November 11, 2018	Pop up museum and program on WWI. Speaker: Brian Armstrong
December		TBA

LIVE 18TH CENTURY MUSIC

Meet the Enslows

Anne and Ridley Enslow provided live period dance music for the annual Spring Ball during Battle of Bound Brook Weekend.



Dancer in Chief

His Excellency General Washington was a very accomplished dancer. Letters talk about his dancing during the Middlebrook Cantonment

FAST FACTS

39

Age of Lt. Gn. Charles Cornwallis in 1777

44

Age of Gn. Benjamin Lincoln in 1777

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Look under the events tab at...

WWW.HERITAGETRAIL.ORG

18th Colonial Spring Ball

by Heather McNall-Lang

Bridgewater, NJ April 14, 2018

Eric and Cynthia Blumenkrantz as convivial hosts Phillip and Elizabeth Van Horne from HTA and the Middlebrook Theatrical Society welcomed the North River Historical Dancers (NRHD), reenactors from the battle of Bound Brook, and members of the public to Phil's Hill for the annual Spring Dance.

Janice Wolk of the NRHD called each period dance. "We have a passion for instructing! We teach everyone and exclude no one, regardless of your experience level," said Janice. It proved true as their members assisted anyone unfamiliar with the steps in the enjoyable evening. Anyone who wanted to be a part of this gathering was welcome.

Showing their support and enthusiasm for the Van Horne House and this year's dance were the Honorable Mayor of Bridgewater and his lovely wife. Not content to simply stop by and say hello, the two donned period dress and danced well into the night.

The dancers filled three rooms of the house as Anne and Ridley Enslow presented living history through music performed on period instruments appropriate for each dance. By all measures a success!

Next year we may well fill a fourth room!

First



Second



Third



Fourth



Fifth



(Above) The Honorable Mr. Daniel J Hayes Jr., the Mayor of Bridgewater and his wife Diana pose with Cynthia Blumenkrantz, president of the HTA, in period dress.



(Left) Attendees of the 2018 dance enjoy some refreshments between dances in the Van Horne House tavern room.

The Bound Brook Fortifications Part I

By David Lang

The town Bound Brook once included an 18th-century fortification called a redoubt that has long since disappeared from the banks of the Raritan River near the Queens Bridge that it was built to defend.

Some of the best information about this redoubt did not come to light until the end of World War II when the diary of Jaeger Capt. Johann Ewald was discovered by Joseph P. Tustin, an American working in Allied-controlled Berlin after the war. He published a translation with Yale University Press in 1979. The diary includes maps of the many battles in which Capt. Ewald partook, including the Battle of Bound Brook.

Capt. Ewald was tasked by General Cornwallis with planning the attack on Bound Brook in 1777. And it was Ewald who led the attack against the American redoubt built to defend both the Queens Bridge over the Raritan River and the Stone Bridge over the Green Brook. This redoubt is illustrated on a map of the battlefield contained in the diary.



Detail of a Redoubt, Half Moon Battery and the bridges defended from a map of Bound Brook by Hessian Captain Johann Ewald's "Diary of the American War"

This is the only contemporary illustration of which I am aware that was drawn by an eyewitness, who was also a professional soldier. So the illustration gives invaluable insight into its design.

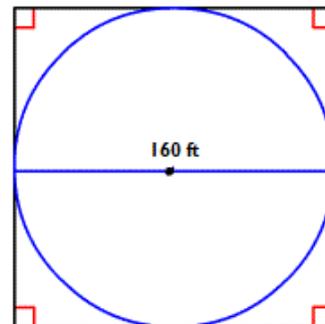
Ewald's illustration clearly shows two structures historians identify as the half-moon battery and the redoubt. I will discuss the half-moon battery in a future issue of the HTA Quarterly.

Redoubt construction was high military science from the 16th through the 19th centuries. Many books and treatises were published on their construction. According to Lewis Louche, who wrote in 1783, "The Redoubt is a work generally enclosed on all sides. It serves to secure a post, a grand guard, or communications; to defend a defile, a bridge, a ford, etc., and is of various dimensions, that is, of different plans and profiles. The extent of it is proportioned to the number of men who are to defend it, and the parapet is generally of sufficient height to cover them. The redoubt has no precise or common form...the form, indeed, is determined by the spot of ground on which it is raised, and the purposes for which it is constructed.... By redoubt...is understood a work enclosed on all sides, and formed wholly of salient angles."

Briefly stated, a redoubt was purpose built. Its design was dictated by its location, its purpose and how many soldiers would defend it. Form followed function. Each redoubt was customized to its location.

Redoubts were massive structures built from the earth that was excavated during their construction. Their size was based upon the strength of the detachment assigned for its defense. British Engineer Lieutenant J.C. Pleydell wrote in his *Essay on Field Fortification* in 1768, "Allowing an ordinary pace, or two feet, to each

file [of soldiers], two deep. When cannon are intended to be placed in a field work, six paces are allowed to a field-piece, and eight paces to a twelve-pounder." However, Pleydell also noted: "The least interior circumference that can be allowed to a square redoubt is eighty paces."



Remember your high school geometry? When a circle is inscribed in a square, the diameter of the circle is equal to the side length of the square. So, the minimum side length of a redoubt is 160 feet. That's 25,600 square feet of interior space!

Redoubts had many common features that we can safely conjecture existed for Bound Brook's fortification. These include:

- Parapet;
- Banquette;
- Embrasures;
- Ditch (with Berm, Scarp and Counterscarp);
- Palisades;
- Fraizes;
- Abbatis; and
- Entrance

I'll discuss these in the next issue of the HTA Quarterly.

THE REDOUBT AT BOUND BROOK

- Constructed in the winter of 1777
- Occupied by a garrison of 500 men
- Included a half moon-battery
- The fortification was designed for artillery but cannon were not installed before the attack on April 13, 1777.

WW1

The War that changed the World

The centennial of World War I offers an opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the sacrifices of their predecessors and to understand how the events of 100 years ago have affected our nation, its people, and the world ever since.

4,700,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War I.

2 future presidents served, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

2,000,000 individuals from the United States served overseas during World War I.

200,000 naval personnel served on the seas.

375,000 US casualties.

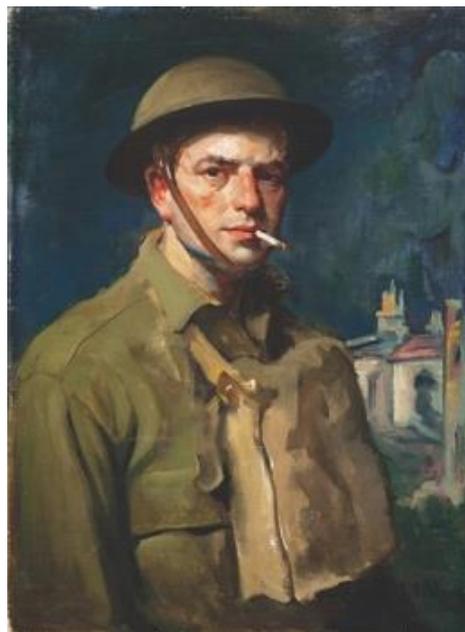
116,516 US deaths.

The United States honors the American veterans of every major war of the 20th century with a national memorial in Washington, D.C., except the veterans of World War I.

The centennial of the war from 2017 to 2019 provides the opportunity to give long-overdue recognition to America's 4.7 million sons and daughters who served in the Great War. Those women and men served with the same valor and courage as the veterans of those later wars, and the nation's sacrifice was great—204,000 Americans returned home wounded and 116,516 did not come home at all.

As we commemorate the centennial of the U.S. involvement in the Great War, now is the time to honor the heroism and sacrifice of the Americans who served with the creation of a National World War I Memorial in Washington.

Heritage Trail will host a "Pop Up" museum and a talk about the Great War on November 11th. Look for more information on our website and in the next issue of the Quarterly.



Double Dipping in the D&R Canal

Bridgewater, NJ 4/8/2018 2:00 pm

If you live in central New Jersey, you have heard of it, crossed over it countless times, driven along its banks, and may even have boated on top of it, but did you know that for more than 180 years, the Delaware and Raritan Canal has meandered across the narrow waist of New Jersey? Did you know that the D&R was one of our nation's most successful towpath canals, carrying more tonnage in 1866 than the more famous Erie Canal? Did you know that Johnson & Johnson, Roebling, and Fleischmann's Distillery all had their start along the D&R? And did you know that the canal provides the people of central New Jersey with both a water supply and a premier

recreational facility? I had said no to each of those questions before attending "Double Dipping in the D&R Canal" by Linda Barth.

The canal forms a great horseshoe across the neck of central New Jersey. Its left branch is formed by the feeder canal with water supplied by the Delaware River. At the toe is Bordentown and lock one where boats entered from the Delaware River. The right branch of the horseshoe shape is formed by the main canal with its 14 locks curving upward through central NJ until it finally connects with the Raritan River at New Brunswick.

Using stories and dozens of rare photographs, Linda took us on a journey along the canal through time.

Linda Barth is an author, teacher, tour leader and self-described canal enthusiast. She has written six books. Her first was on the D&R Canal in 2002. A native of South Bound Brook, Linda has a personal canal connection. She grew up near lock 11 of the canal. She and her husband Bob are active in the D&R Canal Watch, a group that helps to protect the historic Delaware & Raritan Canal in central New Jersey.

Linda closed her presentation by encouraging a visit to the D&R Canal State Park to walk, canoe, fish, ride your horse, bird watch, take photos, and just enjoy the beauty of the park.

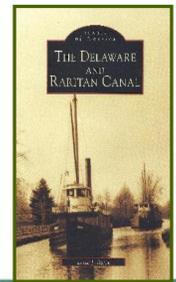


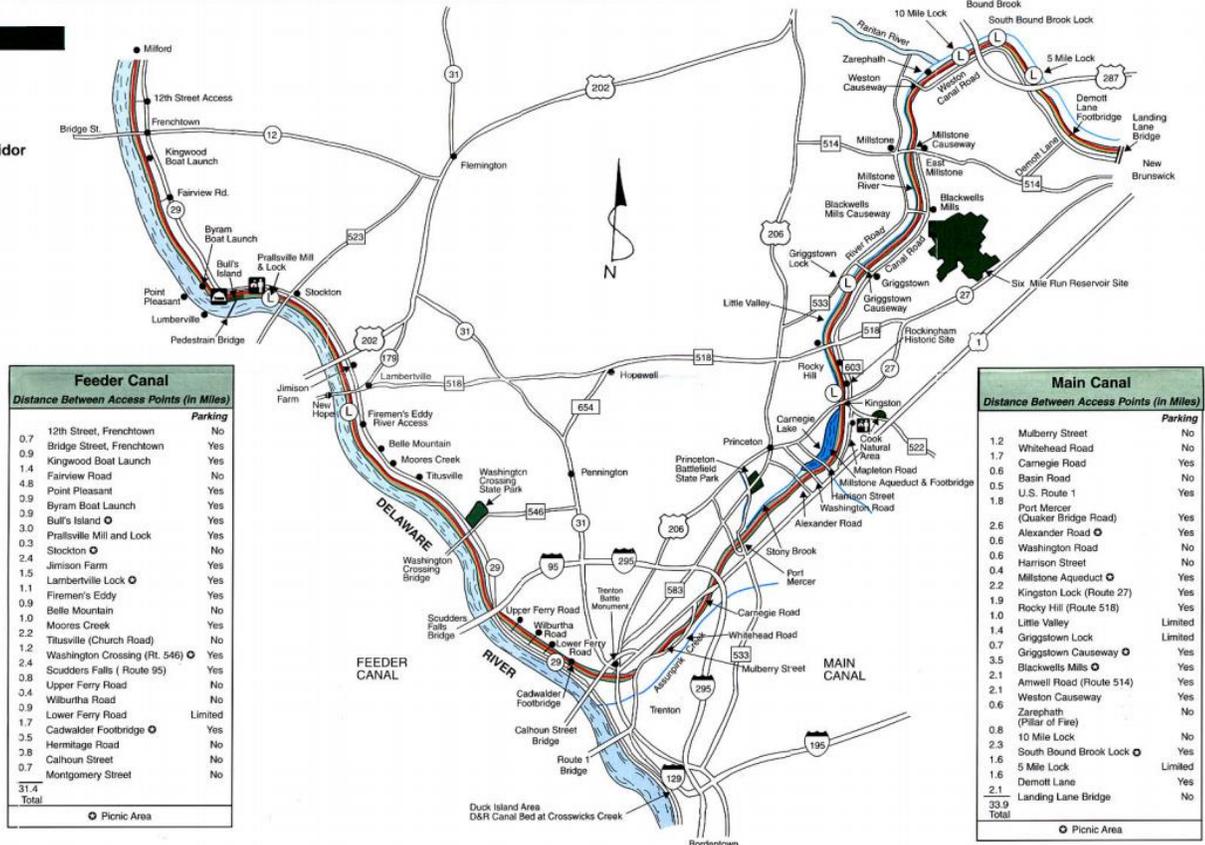
Image of the D&R canal book by Linda Barth published by Arcadia

D&R CANAL STATE PARK

LEGEND

- Park Office
- Camping Area
- D & R Canal State Park Corridor
- Other State Park Land
- Canal Lock

0 1 2 3 4
Scale in Miles



Welcome to Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park

The New Jersey State Park Service hopes you will enjoy the many features of this area—including hiking, camping, fishing, boating and canoeing among others. For more information contact:

Park Office
D & R Canal State Park - Main Office
145 Mapleton Road
Princeton, NJ 08540
(609) 924-5705

Feeder Canal Office and Campground
Bull's Island Recreation Area
2185 Daniel Bray Highway
Stockton, NJ 08559
(609) 397-2949

Visit us on the web:
www.njparksandforest.org

Feeder Canal		
Distance Between Access Points (in Miles)		Parking
0.7	12th Street, Frenchtown	No
0.9	Bridge Street, Frenchtown	Yes
1.4	Kingwood Boat Launch	Yes
4.8	Fairview Road	No
0.9	Point Pleasant	Yes
0.9	Byram Boat Launch	Yes
3.0	Bull's Island	Yes
0.3	Prallsville Mill and Lock	No
2.4	Stockton	Yes
1.5	Jimison Farm	Yes
1.1	Lambertville Lock	Yes
0.9	Firemen's Eddy	Yes
1.0	Belle Mountain	No
2.2	Moores Creek	Yes
1.2	Titusville (Church Road)	No
2.4	Washington Crossing (Rt. 546)	Yes
0.8	Scudders Falls (Route 95)	Yes
0.4	Upper Ferry Road	No
0.9	Wilburtha Road	No
1.7	Lower Ferry Road	Limited
3.5	Cadwalder Footbridge	Yes
2.8	Hermitage Road	No
0.7	Calhoun Street	No
31.4	Total	

Main Canal		
Distance Between Access Points (in Miles)		Parking
1.2	Mulberry Street	No
1.7	Whitehead Road	No
0.6	Carnegie Road	Yes
0.5	Basin Road	No
1.8	Port Mercer	Yes
2.6	(Quaker Bridge Road)	Yes
0.6	Alexander Road	Yes
0.6	Washington Road	No
0.4	Harrison Street	No
2.2	Millstone Aqueduct	Yes
1.9	Kingston Lock (Route 27)	Yes
1.0	Rocky Hill (Route 518)	Yes
1.4	Little Valley	Limited
0.7	Griggstown Lock	Limited
3.5	Blackwells Mills	Yes
2.1	Amwell Road (Route 514)	Yes
2.1	Weston Causeway	Yes
0.6	Zarephath	No
2.8	(Pillar of Fire)	No
0.3	10 Mile Lock	No
1.6	South Bound Brook Lock	Yes
1.6	5 Mile Lock	Limited
2.1	Demott Lane	Yes
33.9	Total	

HTA
Quarterly
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Welcome to the Heritage Trail

Discover Somerset County's past!

Over 300 years of sacrifices, challenges, and pivotal moments have transpired right in our own backyard. Our goal is to offer area residents and visitors alike an opportunity to learn about the rich history of greater Somerset County while celebrating our unique place in our nation's history. The Heritage Trail Association helps to connect the past to the present day.