



THE MEADOW LARK

A MEADOWS FOUNDATION PUBLICATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FALL-WINTER 2010

• **September** •
**11-12th - Civil War
 Reenactment**
 Fri.-Sun. - 9/10 - 9/12
 \$5 Parking
 Van Liew Suydam

11th - Harvest Festival
 Sat. - 9/11 - 1-4pm
 \$5 Parking
 Hageman Farm

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

• **October** •
9th-10th - Colonial Times
 Sat. 9/9 - 10 - 4pm
 Sun. 9/10 - 10 - 3pm
 Wyckoff-Garretson House

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

30th - Pumpkin Patch
 Sat. 10/30 - 1 - 4pm
 Van Wickle House

• **November** •
6th - Cool Women Poets
 Sat. 11/6 - 2 - 4pm
 \$10 Admission
 Tulipwood

20th - A Spirited War
 Sat. 11/20 - 1 - 4pm
 \$10 Admission
 Van Wickle House

• **December** •
4th - The War Man
 Sat. 12/4 - 1 - 4pm
 \$10 Admission
 Wyckoff-Garretson House

5th - Sinterklaas
 Sun. 12/5 - 1 - 4pm
 \$5 Parking
 Van Wickle House

Addresses are posted
 at the end of the calendar.
 (Calendar continues on page 2)

THE CIVIL WAR RETURNS TO VAN LIEW-SUYDAM!

Join In This Living History Event!

Once again, the Meadows Foundation will open its program year with the return of the 6th New Hampshire Co. C Volunteers, who will demonstrate camp life of the average Union soldier during the Civil War. Included in this memorable rain-or-shine event will be drilling events for children as well as firing demonstrations for one and all.

This exciting camp out will take place Sept. 11 and 12 at the Van Liew Suydam House, 280 S. Middlebush Road, Somerset. Hours are 10-5 Sat. and 10-2 Sun. The event is free but a \$5 parking donation per carload is appreciated. Complimentary refreshments.

But that's not all! Please visit our nearby Hageman Farm, 209 S. Middlebush Road, on the 11th for a charming afternoon sampling 19th-century farm life, including old-fashioned games for children and an apple pie contest at our annual **Hageman Harvest Festival**.

For further information call: 732-748-7657.



Civil War
Camp Life



Children Marching
at the Civil War
Camp

MEADOWS TO HOST HARVEST FESTIVAL AT HAGEMAN FARM

The Meadows Foundation will host its third annual "Hageman Farm Harvest Festival" on Saturday, September 11, 1-4 p.m., at Hageman Farm, 209 S. Middlebush Rd., Somerset. This event will include children's games, as well as learning about and tasting heirloom apples. There will also be an apple pie contest, including awards and sampling. Complimentary refreshments will be served. The event is free, but a \$5/carload parking donation is suggested.

Hageman Farm committee chair MaryAnne McMillan said, "We encourage the community to visit the farm, to learn more about the really fascinating history of the farm and the apple itself, and to play games that reflect the history of 19th century farm life."



The properties are publicly financed and cared for by volunteers. Participation supports the township's efforts to preserve and protect these properties."

For more information please call MaryAnne McMillan at 908-447-8360.

www.themeadowsfoundation.org

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Christine Retz, President Meadows Foundation



Regards, Chris

Welcome to another exciting Meadows program year! We have a wealth of programs designed to entertain and enlighten you from now until the spring of 2011. One of my favorite activities this summer has been working closely with Meadows board member and program chair Evelyn Maron and her fine committee in scheduling our many events for adults and children alike.

There are many ways in which you can support the Meadows. Your new or continued membership is the most vital in helping preserve the past for

the future. And we can always use some extra hands on our board of directors, which meets for 90 minutes, generally on the third Monday of every month from Sept. – May. If you, like so many of your fellow Americans, are feeling the effects of a layoff, the Meadows is a great way to occupy some free time and to know that you are making a real, lasting difference. Please join the Meadows if you haven't already and ensure that the past stays alive for our children and grandchildren.



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK



By Dee Trener, Treasurer

There are several matters to which I wish to draw to your kind attention.

Electronic Transfers - If you use an electronic transfer to pay your dues or make a donation, please leave a message for me at (732) 873-8334.

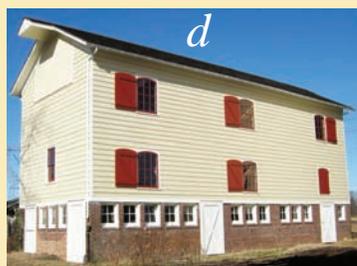
Dues Clarification - Dues are due annually in December for the following year, with a small early-bird discount for those attending the annual meeting in November. Membership lapses if dues aren't paid by April 1. We try to keep the dues at a very reasonable amount, as every membership is valued!

RESTORATIONS OF THE HAGEMAN HOUSE, DAIRY BARN, HORSE BARN & WAGON BARN, HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AFTER 22 YEARS

2011

- **January** •
15th - General Slocum Disaster
Sat. 1/15 - 1 - 4pm
\$10 Admission
Van Wickle House
- **February** •
26th - The Freedom Quilt
Sat. 2/26 - 1 - 4pm
\$10 Admission
Hageman Farm
- **March** •
19th - Remembering Diana, Princess of Wales
Sat. 3/19 - 1 - 4pm
\$10 Admission
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.

The combined efforts of David Munyak and Mark Else have completed the largest restoration project undertaken since the Meadows Foundation was founded in 1976. As our primary contractor throughout these years, Island Housewrights, has demonstrated exceptional craftsmanship in every nail and board it touched. We have been told by experts that there are no other barns of such unique design and construction anywhere else in New Jersey. Now the work of converting these buildings into a multipurpose public complex with space for meetings, wedding, parties, corporate retreats, arts and craft shows, dances, concerts, etc, etc begins. The Horse Barn (1,950 sq.ft.) with a capacity of 156 people and the Dairy Barn (1440 sq.ft.) with a capacity to seat 80 people for a banquet. With buffet services both barns will be able to handle 236 guests."



a. Hageman Farm House
b. Dairy & Horse Barn
c. Wagon Barn
d. Dairy Barn close-up



Since early Dutch homes and lives are the heritage The Meadows Foundation is preserving, we thought it would be interesting to our members to learn about this largely ignored period in American history. With this issue we are presenting the second installment of the series and will continue with several more over coming issues of the Meadow Lark. Please let us know if you find these interesting or not.

DUTCH HERITAGE III. By Mark Else

THE ORIGIN OF OUR MELTING POT

Even a very limited amount of knowledge of how this nation started will lead us to 1620, the *Mayflower*, and its Puritan cargo. But do we remember where the Pilgrims went before they came to the New World? They went to the Netherlands and lived there for 12 years. Finally, they decided that the liberal and permissive Amsterdam society was weakening their Puritan spiritual standards and they moved back to England. Within a year they sailed from Plymouth to the New World. New England was progressively settled by various Protestant groups. They were conservative, yet diverse, English Christians with severe standards for their spiritual beliefs. The religious leaders led their colonies and largely dictated how the colony would behave socially and worship. Those colonies were governed by a theocracy, not a democracy.

Before long there were disagreements among individuals and groups. In many instances, the ones who did not adhere to the colony's rigid Christian beliefs, were forced to leave. There were only a few options for those people. They could go back to England, join another colony, or move to New Amsterdam. It seems that quite a number of the English moved to New Amsterdam. New Amsterdam was thirty-eight years old in 1664 when England stole it from the Netherlands. Besides the Dutch, there were already large numbers of Englishmen living there, plus Walloons, French, Germans, Danes, Norwegians, Swedes, Finns, Portuguese, Spaniards, Jews, Italians, Czechs, Poles, Africans (slaves and free), Montauks, Munsees, Mohawks, and many others. "It has long been recognized that the Dutch Republic in the 1600s was the most progressive and culturally diverse society in Europe. Another difference between England and the Dutch Republic was contained in meaning of a somewhat abstract seventeenth-century word, tolerance.

The idea that the Dutch contributed to

America's future seems novel at first, but that is because early American History was written by Englishmen, who, throughout the seventeenth century, were locked in mortal combat with the Dutch. To talk of the thirteen original English colonies is to ignore another European colony, the one centered on Manhattan, which predated New York, and whose history was all but erased when the English took it over. The original European colony of New Netherland (s) came to an end when England took it over in 1664, renaming it New York after James, the Duke of York, brother of King Charles II, and folding it into its other American Colonies.

Geography shapes character. The character of the river that (Henry) Hudson entered in 1609 was vastly different from the one he had left in the Europe. This single point helps explain why Manhattan owes its originating contours to what would become a different place than Boston or Philadelphia. It had gigantic natural wonders that most European port cities did not.

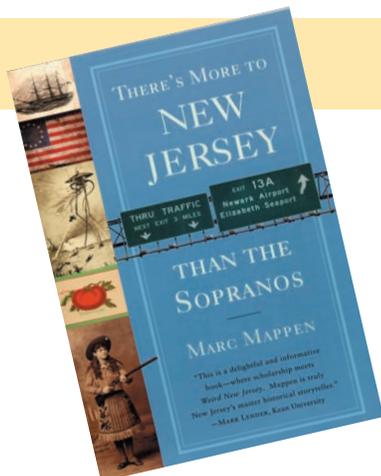
As Bertrand Russell wrote, "Regarding the Dutch impact on intellectual history, it is impossible to exaggerate the importance of Holland in the seventeenth century, as the one country where there was freedom of speculation. The Netherlands of this time was the melting pot of Europe. The Dutch Republic's policy of tolerance made it a haven for everyone from Descartes and John Locke to exiled English royalty to peasants from across Europe. When this society founded a colony based on Manhattan Island, that colony had the same features of tolerance, openness, and free trade that existed in the home country. Those features helped make New York unique, and in time, influenced America in some elemental ways. Upward mobility was part of the Dutch character: if you worked hard and were

smart, you rose in stature. Today that is byword of a healthy society; in the seventeenth century it was weird."

Another example of this could be found in (Henry) Hudson's new employers. The men who made up the Amsterdam Chamber of the East India Company and financed the Dutch trading post in New Netherlands were Catholics and Protestants, many of whom were refugees from persecution in the south or elsewhere. They had come there, wedged themselves into society, and worked their way up. The philosopher Baruch Spinoza was a product of Amsterdam's vigorous Jewish community. To this day, Amsterdammers are proud of the slang term for their city of Mokum, the centuries-old Jewish name for it. For that matter Amsterdam slang for "see you later" is the Yiddishism *de mazzel*.

In the next century "John Adams, in his capacity as the first American ambassador to the Netherlands, wrote in 1782: 'The Originals of the two Republics (United States & Netherland) are so much alike, that the History of one seems but a Transcript from that of the other; so that every Dutchman instructed in the subject, must pronounce the American revolution just and necessary, or pass a Censure upon the greatest Actions of his immortal Ancestors.' Some of those similarities were inevitable. A kind of genetic transfer from one culture to the other, a planting of the Dutch notions in one vital region of the future United States, from which they would be taken into the American character, the unlikely and unwittingly the carrier of the cultural gene that settled here in this place."

Major portions of this article were excerpted from Russell Shorto, *The Island in the Center of the World: The Epic Story of Dutch Manhattan and the Forgotten Colony That Shaped America*, (New York: Vintage Books, 2005).



MARC MAPPEN TO SPEAK AT BANQUET

You won't want to miss this year's wonderful Colonial Times banquet, held at the Hageman Horse barn. The full dinner begins at 6 p.m. on Sat. 10/9, and is quite reasonably priced at \$30. Our after-dinner speaker will be Marc Mappen, noted raconteur and executive director of the New Jersey Historical Commission. He will speak about his wonderful book, *There's More to New Jersey than the*

Sopranos. Dr. Mappen will explore some of the more amusing—as well as some of the less well-known anecdotes from the Garden State's past. Copies of the book, which costs \$20, will be available for sale and signing.

Reservations for this event, which is open to the public, are a MUST, and can be made by calling 732-748-7657, or to chrifflp@aol.com

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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

**Renew
 or become
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 of the
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 Foundation**



Mail Check and form to:

THE MEADOWS
F O U N D A T I O N
STEWARDS OF EARLY DUTCH & AMERICAN HERITAGE
 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset, New Jersey 08873

Enclosed is my/our tax deductible 501c3 contribution.

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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!