



Middlebrook Messenger

Vol. 1, No. 3

July 2025

friendsofbridgewaterhistory@gmail.com—<https://fobhistory.wixsite.com/fobhistory>

Who we are: The mission of the Friends of Bridgewater History (FoBH) is to preserve and promote Bridgewater Township history. We meet quarterly on the first Tuesday of March, June, September and December at the Martinsville Community Center in Bridgewater Township, New Jersey, at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming FoBH Events

August 6, 7, 8

The Friends of Bridgewater History will have a table in the commercial tent at the Somerset County 4-H Fair. To volunteer for a couple of hours and meet the public, just write to Jane Gandolfe at jgandolfe@yahoo.com. **We invite you to stop by and meet the Friends!**



Friends of Bridgewater History board meeting Tuesday, September 9, 2025 @ 7:30

Location: Martinsville Community Center, 1961 Washington Valley Road, Martinsville
Building is on top of the hill behind the Washington Valley Library. All are welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE NATION'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY!

We invite you to many local events celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary. It's the semiquincentennial, "big word and big schedule of events for this year, next year and beyond." See pages 2, 3, 4, and 5 for details on

- **7/4/25, Washington Campground Association reading of the Declaration of Independence, 10:00 a.m.**
- **7/5/25, Revolutionary Revelry Night at TD Bank Ballpark, 7:05 p.m.**
- **7/5/25, New Jersey's Unknown Intelligence Network, 2:00.p.m.**
- **7/6/25, The March to Yorktown Day: Panel Discussion and Exhibit, 1:00.p.m.**
- **8/2/25, SCHS Vintage Vibe Membership Drive Party, 1:00.p.m.**



Hear the Declaration of Independence Read at Washington Campground

This annual ceremony has been held since 1895! People gather between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m. at the Washington Campground at 1761 Middlebrook Road, Bridgewater, between Vosseller and Mountain Avenues. (GPS location: 1776 Middlebrook Road.)

Bring lawn chairs and listen to patriotic music while we await the start at 10:30 a.m.



After the welcome by the master of ceremonies, the color guard will take down the flag that was raised last year and raise the new Hopkinson flag. By order of Congress, this flag flies all year.

There will be a welcome address followed by a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Admission is FREE. If you are watching the livestream, it will start at 10:25 a.m.

Please consider car pooling, walking or biking if able. Parking is limited and we'd like to save it for those who most need it.

For the livestream, visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1873739912821643>



Revolutionary Revelry Night with the Somerset Patriots, July 5

Bridgewater, New Jersey – The Somerset Patriots will once again honor the rich history of Central New Jersey with Revolutionary Revelry Night at TD Bank Ballpark on Saturday, July 5. The Patriots take on the Reading Fightin Phils at 7:05 pm.

Come out to the ballpark and celebrate the Revolutionary War history of our area with special displays, demonstrations, costumed actors, and more.

Gearing up for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, the Somerset Patriots have partnered once again with The Heritage Trail Association, the Washington Association at Morristown, and others for the 4th annual Revolutionary Revelry Night at the Patriots Baseball Stadium, TD Bank Park. Outside the park pre-game will be Mott's Artillery, soldiers from the 2nd NJ Regiment, Colonial cooking demonstrations, an 18th-century surgeon, and a fife and drum corps.

Once inside the park, visit tables with these groups along with privateers, Hessian Jaegers, local historic sites and societies, and more! A highlight of this year will be Colonel Moylan's 4th Light Dragoons, Moylan's Horse. Reenactors portraying General Washington, Colonel Moylan, Col. and Mrs. Van Horne and several more will be happy to talk with you. Enjoy living history with the Patriots, between-inning fun, and a great ballgame! Buy your tickets now.

Enjoy and revel with us for another wonderful evening and of course, a Revolutionary Revelry would not be complete without "the Rockets' Red Glare" of fireworks!

Last year's event sold out, so get your tickets early through the Patriots website (<https://www.milb.com/somerset>) or at the box office.



Nearby Events You May Be Interested In Attending

Saturday, July 5th SPECIAL EVENT, WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK, NEW JERSEY

New Jersey's Unknown Intelligence Network During and After the Ten Crucial Days

Russ Dutcher will speak about New Jersey's Unknown Intelligence Network during and after the Ten Crucial Days campaign (December 25, 1776 – January 3, 1777). The presentation will be held in the Visitor Center Museum's auditorium at 2:00 p.m.

The Visitor Center Museum will be open from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. featuring The Swan Historical Foundation's Collection of 500+ Colonial and Revolutionary War artifacts.

The Visitor Center Museum is on County Route 546, about one mile off Route 28 in Washington Crossing, NJ. Park Entrance will be on your left in a ½ mile. Enter the park and follow the signs to the Visitor Center Museum.

For more information call 609-737-0623.



The March to Yorktown Day: Panel Discussion and Exhibit

Sunday, July 6, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

At the Brick Academy, 15 W. Oak St., Basking Ridge, NJ



The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills (THSSH) will kick off celebrating the 250th on July 6th at 1pm at the Brick Academy.

Join us as we celebrate the French-American Alliance and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail that commemorates the 700 miles of land and water routes followed by the allied Continental and French armies from Newport, RI, to Yorktown, VA, in 1781. The march, long recognized as a military master stroke under the command of General George Washington and French General Comte de Rochambeau, led to final victory and an end to the long struggle for American independence.

The Historical Society of the Somerset Hills (THSSH) and the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route New Jersey (W3R-NJ) will host **historians Dr. Robert A. Selig and Dr. Robb Haberman, who will talk about the allied armies as they marched through the Somerset Hills on their way to Yorktown, VA, and the final engagement of the Revolutionary War.** First-hand accounts from the journals of Sgt. James Selkirk will put you in the middle of the action!

Admission: \$20 non-members, \$15 for current members, cash only to be collected at the door. Online Registration is required. <https://somersehillshistoricalociety.org/programs/the-march-to-yorktown-day-panel-discussion-and-exhibit/>

FREDERICK FRELINGHUYSEN AT NJ'S FIRST PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

JULY 10 AT 6:30PM

JOIN PAUL SOLTIS,
INTERPRETIVE SPECIALIST AT
WALLACE HOUSE & OLD
DUTCH PARSONAGE, FOR AN
INTRODUCTION TO
FREDERICK
FRELINGHUYSEN'S LIFE IN
SOMERSET COUNTY AND HIS
ROLE IN THE AMERICAN
REVOLUTION AND THE
PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF
NEW JERSEY 250 YEARS AGO.



This program is sponsored by Raritan's
Historic & Cultural Committee. Please register!

RARITAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
54 E. Somerset Street, Raritan, NJ 08869
www.raritanlibrary.org / 908-725-0413

Call the Raritan Library at the number above to reserve your place.

Vintage Vibe Membership Drive

Join us for a party on August 2nd, 1pm
at Raritan Valley Community College-
featuring a retro classic band,
refreshments, and history activities
from several centuries to prepare for
the Nation's 250th Birthday!



Wear your best vintage 'fit, chat
with George Washington, learn
colonial crafts, party with the
band, and meet dozens of reps
from historic sites all over
Somerset County



Scan here for more information,
sponsorship opportunities, our list of
participating groups or early
registration to skip the line!

Be sure to get your memberships
early to stay up to date on all the
activities, workshops, and early
access to all things history ahead
of the anniversary year 2026!



We thank Al Beronio for sharing the item below; the poem was written by his father.

Al notes: The reference to the Betsy Ross flag was normal at the time—it's too bad that we now know better as it makes use of this in our day somewhat limited. Still, the sentiment is worth noting.

Bound Brook, N. J.
February 19th, 1941

Dear Friend:

In these days of world strife, we cannot be too mindful of what America and the American flag stand for, and should do everything in our power to promote that kind of Americanism that has made this great country of ours the power it is today.

We in Bound Brook are proud of the fact that the first official American flag, the Betsy Ross flag, was flown in our midst at Middlebrook Heights, while Washington encamped there during the Revolutionary War.

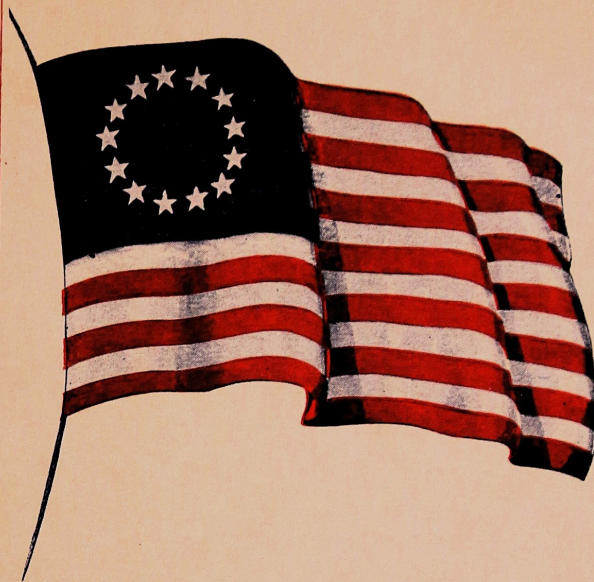
For the past three or four years, members of the American Legion have taken an interest in this sacred spot in American history, and as a member of that organization, I have written a poem which I have dedicated to Giles-Biondi Post No. 63 of the American Legion.

Knowing of your patriotism, I am sending you a copy of this poem, which I am sure will be received in the same spirit in which it is sent.

Sincerely yours,

D. BERONIO.

"On Middlebrook Heights"



The Betsy Ross Flag proudly waves,
Through the days and through the nights,
Symbol of a glorious democracy,
With freedom and human rights;
'Twas Washington that first unfurled,
And kept waving through victorious fights,
The historic Betsy Ross Flag,
At the Camp on Middlebrook Heights.

A great free nation was then built,
On a foundation of equal rights,
Where men and women from all lands,
Found a haven of greater lights;
Many years have passed since then,
And there have been many dark nights,
But the Betsy Ross Flag still waves,
At the Camp on Middlebrook Heights.

In this troubled world of ours,
Where some flags fall over night,
There's one flag that waves serenely,
With peace, liberty, and freedom's light;
And may God help to protect her,
And lead her to greater heights,
The Betsy Ross Flag that waves,
At the Camp on Middlebrook Heights.

— D. Beronio

Dedicated To
GILES-BIONDI POST No. 63, A. L.
BOUND BROOK, N. J.