

PRESS RELEASE 9/13/2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Bob Murgittroyd, [bobmurg@gmail.com](mailto:bobmurg@gmail.com)

PAGE ONE OF THREE

## "Come Home to History" Exhibitors, Talks, Tour Lined Up

A day of exhibits, talks, films, workshops, a tour, and other history-related events for all ages and interests is planned for "Come Home to History: Celebrating 350 Years of Hudson County Heritage," on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The history fair will run from 10 am to 6 pm at the Hudson County Community College Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City, New Jersey.

This fair observes the 350th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent European settlement in New Jersey, the Town of Bergen, in what is now Jersey City. Peter Stuyvesant, Director-General of New Netherland, authorized the establishment on August 16, 1660. Exhibits from more than thirty local and statewide groups will feature aspects of the rich history of Hudson County as well as efforts past and present to preserve significant landmarks.

Attendees are encouraged to discover whether they may be sheltering a museum piece by bringing their small antiques for appraisals. For a small fee (\$3 for one item; \$5 for two), certified appraiser Dr. Rachael Goldman will estimate the value of your treasure.

Two workshops on how to perform historical research are featured: "How to Write Your Family History," presented by genealogist Tony Lauriano, and "How to Research the History of Your Home in Hudson County," by Cynthia Harris, Manager, The New Jersey Room, Jersey City Free Public Library.

Among Saturday's highlights is an illustrated talk, "From Farm and Marsh to Cityscape," by Thomas Flagg, noted industrial archeologist, on how railroads shaped the Hudson County landscape. A film, "Muskrat John, Urban Trapper," by Warner Wada, documents John Rohweder, a Jersey City native who is a living witness, from some 70 years of hunting and trapping in the Meadowlands, to its transformation from farmland by urbanization and transportation infrastructure.

PRESS RELEASE “Come Home to History”  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Bob Murgittroyd, [bobmurg@gmail.com](mailto:bobmurg@gmail.com)

PAGE TWO OF THREE

Activities planned for children include a butter-churning demonstration with the staff from the [Wyckoff Museum](#), representing the oldest building in Brooklyn still extant from the early Dutch settlements. Jack’s Toy Shop in Downtown Jersey City will show children how to make yarn dolls, and will provide an art activity.

Warriors for aesthetics are the subject of a talk on the Hudson County Court House, the Beaux Art landmark, by Dr. Cynthia Sanford, former curator/director of the Jersey City Museum. Tom Bragen covers real warriors in “The Battle of Paulus Hook.” Jim Madden, noted local Civil War authority, will give the talk “The American Civil War Comes to Hudson County,” in which he will introduce colorful local residents from the period.

Authors of books on local history, including Charles Caldes, Cynthia Harris, Lauren Sherman, Patrick Shalhoub, and Leon Yost, will be on hand to sign copies of their works. Leach, head of the Jersey City Historical Project and noted local raconteur, will also present his video “Invasion of the Reds: Mayor Hague’s War on Radicals and Free Speech.”

Ceremonies planned for 12:30 pm will include remarks by local officials. John Hallanan III, President of the Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy, will describe “The Founding of Bergen.” Prints by Richard LaRovere on historical subjects will be awarded to the self-identified oldest families in each Hudson County community, and a ceremonial “Town Of Bergen Birthday Cake” will be cut.

Admission to the Fair is free. Discounted parking is available at an enclosed lot on Sip Avenue across from the Culinary Conference Center. Refreshments may be purchased from the Culinary Conference Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor.

Groups scheduled to participate in the History Fair are:

- [African American Historical & Genealogical Society](#)
- [African American Museum](#)
- Archivist of the Jersey City Fire Department
- Bayonne Community Museum

PRESS RELEASE “Come Home to History”  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Bob Murgittroyd, [bobmurg@gmail.com](mailto:bobmurg@gmail.com)

PAGE THREE OF THREE

- [Bayonne Historical Society](#)
- [Bayonne Public Library](#)
- [Dr. Rachael Goldman Antiques Appraisals](#)
- [Embankment Preservation Coalition](#)
- [Genealogical Society of New Jersey](#)
- [George Washington Commemorative Society](#)
- [Historic Jersey City & Harsimus Cemetery](#)
- [Hoboken Historical Museum](#)
- Holland American Historical Society
- [Hudson County Community College](#)
- [Hudson County Genealogical Society](#)
- Hudson County History Authors
- [Jersey City Free Public Library](#)
- [Jersey City Landmarks Conservancy](#)
- [Kearny Museum](#)
- [Lincoln Association](#)
- [New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association](#)
- [NJCU: Jersey City Past & Present Web Site](#)
- [Old Bergen Church](#)
- [Peal Collection](#)
- [Preservation NJ](#)
- [Richard La Rovere Art Prints](#)
- [Save Ellis Island](#)
- St. Paul's at Bergen Episcopal Church
- [St. Peter's College](#)
- The Jersey City Woman's Club
- Union City Historical Group
- Weehawken Historic Commission
- West New York Historical Group

The full schedule, subject to change, is at [www.hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org/historyfair2010](http://www.hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org/historyfair2010) .

Check frequently for updates.

“Come Home to History” is sponsored by Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise; Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and Tourism; City of Jersey City, Jerramiah T. Healy, Mayor; Jersey City Municipal Council; Jersey City Division of Cultural Affairs; Hudson County Community College; Hudson County History Advocates; and the Jersey City Historical Project.

For further information, contact Bob Murgittroyd at [bobmurg@gmail.com](mailto:bobmurg@gmail.com) .