

## Ocean Arts & Heritage

Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission

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[www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural](http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural)



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Requests for Literature & Information

Contact the Commission for a free brochure listing all Commission publications with an order form or to be added to the mailing list to receive *Ocean Arts & Heritage* newsletter:

732-929-4779 (voice) • 732-506-5062 (TTY) • 1-800-722-2121 (toll free) • 732-288-7871 (fax) [CulturalHeritage@co.ocean.nj.us](mailto:CulturalHeritage@co.ocean.nj.us) (e-mail)

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## FUNDING LOCAL ARTS & HERITAGE

Ocean County is the beneficiary this year of \$ 321,230 in state cultural grants for local history and arts programming. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts (NJSCA) and the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) have each awarded direct general operating and special project funding support to local not-for-profit local arts and history organizations in 2003.

Organizations receiving NJSCA funding totaling \$182,227 for arts programming are Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission (\$89,826), Garden State Philharmonic (\$40,000), Joseph P. Hayes Surf Flight Theatre (\$30,000), and Tuckerton Seaport (\$22,401).

The NJHC has awarded grants totaling \$139,003 to the following local organizations: Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission (\$20,000), Ocean County Historical Society (\$78,265), Georgian Court College (\$13,238), Lakewood Board of Education (\$10,000), Toms River Seaport Society (\$2,500), and Tuckerton Seaport (\$15,000).

The Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission manages local funding programs that reallocate (regrant) 72 percent of its arts and history funding awards (totaling \$109,826) to 27 non-profit cultural organizations in Ocean County. The following organizations are the recipients of \$109,826 in direct funding aid for general operating support and special projects: Alliance for a Living Ocean, Barnegat Historical Society, Beach Haven Community Arts, Brick

Township Historical Society, Brick Township Special Events Office, Carpenter Gothic Publishers, Community Chorus of Ocean County College, Festival of the Atlantic, First Night Ocean County, The Historical Society of Waretown, The Island Singers, Jackson Council for the Arts, Jackson Township Recreation, Jewish Federation of Ocean County, Laurelton Art Society, Lavallette Heritage Commission, Long Beach Island Historical Association, New Egypt Historical Society, Ocean County Artists' Guild, Ocean County College Theatre Company, Ocean County Columbus Day Parade Committee, Ocean County Library, Our Gang Players, Pines Shores Art Association, Seaside Heights BID, Ship Bottom Borough, and Stafford Township Historical Society.

# Ocean Arts & Heritage

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## THE ROLE OF OCEAN COUNTY IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION: SETTING THE STAGE

by Thomas P. Farner\*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

THE ROLE OF  
OCEAN COUNTY IN THE  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION  
Page 1

NEW EGYPT'S  
HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
Page 2

FROM THE  
ADMINISTRATOR:  
AN INVITATION  
Page 2

VIRGINIA PERLE  
ART GALLERY OPENS  
Page 3

### SAVE THE DATE:

OCEAN COUNTY  
CULTURAL SUMMIT II  
Saturday  
April 12, 2003  
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
Ocean County College,  
Toms River Campus

**T**he Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission is pleased to begin a series of articles about Ocean County's role in the American Revolution in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of that war. This fresh new look at our nation's War of Independence from a local perspective is the work of Thomas P. Farner. The series will be published in succeeding quarterly issues of *Ocean Arts & Heritage*. In this first article, Mr. Farner sets the stage for establishing Ocean County's involvement in the Revolutionary War.

County. However, before we delve into these events, we must first set the stage, which also helps to explain why the stories have been overlooked for so long. At the time of the American Revolution, Ocean County did not exist. Most of its land was part of Monmouth County and the balance was part of Burlington County. All of what comprises Ocean County today was spread across three townships, Dover, Stafford and Little Egg Harbor. Oyster Creek roughly divided Stafford and Dover townships and the East-West Jersey Line separated Stafford from Little Egg Harbor.

This meant not only a different county but also different colonial backgrounds and capitals. Records from Tuckerton would have been kept in the West Jersey capital of Burlington and those of Stafford and Dover housed in the East Jersey capital of Perth Amboy. Within each township there was a major settlement, Toms River, Manahawkin, and Clamtown (Tuckerton). There were also dozens of isolated villages such as Manchester, Cedar Bridge, and even Good Luck. This isolation attracted independent, self-reliant people who were looked down upon by the more sophisticated societies of Philadelphia, New York, Burlington, and Shrewsbury. What all of the future county's settlements had in common was water. It was a war that placed normal people into extraordinary circumstances. Where average citizens would be forced to make decisions that would not only affect them on a personal level but would affect the lives of 'generations unborn.'

It is this theme and four important Revolutionary events - The Little Egg Harbor Raid, The Long Beach Island Massacre, The Joshua Huddy Affair, and The Skirmish at Cedar Bridge Tavern - which unify Ocean

(Continued on page 3)

## From the Administrator: An Invitation . . .

I look forward to working with and for Ocean County's myriad of arts, history, cultural, and heritage organizations, artists, and historians. As a resident of the county for more than two decades and as assistant administrator of the Cultural & Heritage Commission for nine years, I have been keenly aware of and have an abiding respect for our county's varied, knowledgeable, and creative cultural groups and individuals who add so much to making Ocean County the special place that it is.

Last year, the Board of Chosen Freeholders enthusiastically approved the five-year comprehensive Ocean County Cultural Plan, the first of its kind in Ocean County. Following that endorsement, an Implementation Task Force was constituted which has been working diligently for the past seven months to execute the first phase of the plan throughout the county. As the Cultural & Heritage Commission's new administrator, I am committed to accomplishing the goals and objectives set forth in the plan. It is a vital cultural blueprint as the county continues to grow and develop, and its impact will be recognized in an enhanced quality of community life, economic development, community revitalization, growth of cultural tourism, and better education experiences for residents of all ages.

On April 12, the Task Force and the Commission cordially invite you to attend Cultural Summit II at Ocean County College. Many of the goals and objectives set forth in Ocean County's Cultural Plan were developed as a result of issues addressed at the first open public Cultural Summit held two years ago in April 2001. This second half-day conference will bring arts, history, and cultural organizations, as well as history buffs and individual artists in all disciplines, together again for a report on the plan's implementation progress and to continue the dialogue on how the climate for the arts and heritage in Ocean County can be enhanced and supported. The program includes a keynote speaker and panel discussion. Coffee and Danish will be served. Please save the date and plan to spend Saturday morning, April 12, with the Commission and Task Force at Ocean County College. Your input is important. I look forward to seeing you there.

. . . Cynthia Smith

## NEW EGYPT'S HISTORICAL MUSEUM



Browsing in the Stanley Dancer Room during the opening reception of New Egypt Historical Society's museum are (l-r): Pauline S. Miller, Ocean County Historian; Barbara C. Rivolta, Executive Director/Curator, Ocean County Historical Museum; Cynthia H. Smith, Administrator, Ocean County Cultural & Heritage Commission; Carol Reed, President, New Egypt Historical Society; and Ronald S. Dancer, New Jersey State Assemblyman, 30th District, and Mayor, Plumsted Township.

The New Egypt Historical Society opened Ocean County's newest historical museum to the public on November 16. Located at 125 Evergreen Road in New Egypt (Plumsted Township), the museum features champion harness racing driver Stanley Dancer's memorabilia, photos, trophies, and tack. One room in the museum is dedicated solely to Dancer's unique collection and includes an exclusive video of an oral history interview with the New Egypt native and harness racing's triple crown winner. Other rooms in the restored historic Singleton farmhouse display articles from the society's collection of local artifacts, furniture, documents, and photographs, crafts, and paintings.

The museum is open Sundays, 1 - 4 p.m. and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Group tours are available by pre-arrangement. Further information available at 609-758-8111.

## NEW LOOK

In its role as the primary leader and catalyst in promoting cultural heritage and the arts in Ocean County, the Cultural & Heritage Commission seeks to connect and network more effectively with its cultural constituencies. In keeping with that objective, the Commission has initiated two facelifts. The first is this newsletter; it has an updated masthead, a more inclusive name, and color has been introduced. The second is the Commission's website; the site has been redesigned, revised, and is now linked to other cultural websites to better serve its visitors. The Commission thanks Ocean County College's web development specialist Maureen Conlon and her student Michael Mazza for their technical assistance in creating our new site look.

You will also notice that this new edition of the newsletter does not include "Galleries & Museums" and the current quarterly "Events" listings. These sections have been replaced by the Commission's six-month calendar brochures of arts activities and events, "Ocean County Performing Arts Consortium" and "Ocean County Visual Arts Consortium." In addition, the Commission's popular color brochure, "The Shore and More!" provides a comprehensive listing with a keyed map to help locate the more than 30 local historical museums and arts venues in Ocean County. Furthermore, the Commission's website also has the information provided in all three of these brochures and can be easily accessed at: [www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural](http://www.co.ocean.nj.us/cultural)

## ROLE OF OCEAN COUNTY

(Continued from page 1)

contact with the West Indies than Trenton, or contact with Cuba than with each other.

Inland roads were little more than paths. Water was also vital to the inland settlements. Streams were dammed to provide power for dozens of small sawmills. Cedar groves were turned into lumber, and the swamps, once cleared, exposed bog iron that along with pine trees turned into charcoal, became furnaces and forges.

Maps of the day refer to the pinelands as the 'Jersey Desert,' and most people in the pines lived an isolated life, little affected by the politics leading up to the Revolution. The events of 1775 - 1783 would change it all. People would be forced to take sides; neighbor would take up arms against neighbor; boundaries and allegiances would be redrawn; town names would be changed; and feuds would begin. For what was to become Ocean County, the world would indeed be turned up side down.

*Next:* Redcoats at Tuckerton

\*Thomas P. Farner was born in Mt. Holly and has been a resident of Ocean County since 1958. A graduate of Southern Regional High School, he received his Bachelor of Science in Education from then Mansfield State College, Mansfield, PA. Tom began teaching in 1970 in Pemberton Township and in 1974 had his first history article published in *The Daily Observer* of Toms River.

Since 1976 his weekly column "200 Plus" has appeared in *The Sandpaper*. His column deals with all of U. S. history but focuses on New Jersey's role in that history. In 1996 the publication of his book, *New Jersey in History: Fighting to be Heard*, Down The Shore Publications, relates the role of the State in making America.

Tom and his wife Carol live in Manahawkin. His e-mail address is [tpfcjf@comcast.net](mailto:tpfcjf@comcast.net)

## OPPORTUNITIES AND NETWORKING:

Keep current with cultural events, activities, and funding prospects in New Jersey by accessing these websites:

New Jersey State Council on the Arts:  
[www.njartscouncil.org](http://www.njartscouncil.org)

Arts Horizons (arts-in-education)  
[www.artshorizons.org](http://www.artshorizons.org)

Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation  
[www.midatlanticarts.org](http://www.midatlanticarts.org)

New Jersey Historical Commission:  
[www.newjerseyhistory.org](http://www.newjerseyhistory.org)

New Jersey Historic Trust:  
[www.njht.org](http://www.njht.org)

New Jersey State Archives  
[www.njarchives.org](http://www.njarchives.org)

Juried Craft Show - applications are being accepted until March 15 for the 29th Annual New Jersey Folk Festival Juried Craft Market, to be held Saturday, April 26, 2003, on the Douglass Campus of Rutgers-The State University, New Brunswick, New Jersey. For details, rules, and applications visit <http://njfolkfest.rutgers.edu> or call 732-932-5775 or email, [njff@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:njff@rci.rutgers.edu)

Arts Marketing website:  
[www.artsmarketing.org](http://www.artsmarketing.org) offers helpful

information in marketing all disciplines of the arts.

Arts Advocacy website:  
[www.jerseyarts.com](http://www.jerseyarts.com) promotes arts and arts organizations throughout New Jersey.

Arts Extension Service, Division of Continuing Education at the University of Massachusetts, offers Fundamentals of Arts Management Online, a course designed to advance nonprofit management skills through professional development rather than a degree program. Online courses teach problem-solving techniques, management skills, and principles for the workplace through written lectures and job-related field assignments. For information, access: [www.imass.edu/aes](http://www.imass.edu/aes)

Four literary prizes (\$500 to \$1,000) for poetry, fiction and young people's books will be awarded in Spring 2003 through the Poetry Center at Passaic County Community College. Call 973-684-5444 or

visit [www.pccc.cc.nj.us/poetry](http://www.pccc.cc.nj.us/poetry) for details.

Art Galleries Across America offers visual artists a showcase for their work. Both national and regional databases are available that provide gallery names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers in Microsoft Excel and in a Test Database. For information, call 1-888-330-4919 or email [morelistinfo@excite.com](mailto:morelistinfo@excite.com)

## Virginia Perle Art Gallery Opens

Virginia Perle, a Toms River resident for over 35 years, recently realized her dream and opened her own art gallery. A watercolorist, well-known both locally and throughout New Jersey, Ms. Perle, has exhibited extensively in the Northeast, especially in New York and Pennsylvania. Her work has been displayed in the Rotunda of the House of Representatives Office Building in Washington, D.C. and at the Statehouse in Trenton in a one-artist show. Covering a broad array of subjects, including seascapes, landscapes, city scenes, still lifes, and portraits, the gallery features watercolor originals, limited edition lithographs, and giclee prints.

Ms. Perle and her husband Robert bought the charming and historic 144-year old Captain Frank Williams House at 96 East Water Street, Toms River and renovated its first floor rooms by converting them into attractive galleries. Overlooking the Toms River, the outside of the two-story T-shaped wood frame house has been carefully restored using feather cut wood shingles and clapboard to preserve the variations of design patterns.

The gallery is open Wednesday - Saturday, 12 noon - 4 p.m. Parking is available in the rear off Caldwell Lane, which is accessible from both Washington and Water streets. Telephone the gallery at 732-244-4300 for further information.

