



NEW JERSEY  
*Historical*  
COMMISSION

# Past Matters

June 2024

The New Jersey Historical Commission proudly presents *Past Matters*, a monthly newsletter specifically written for New Jersey's state legislators.

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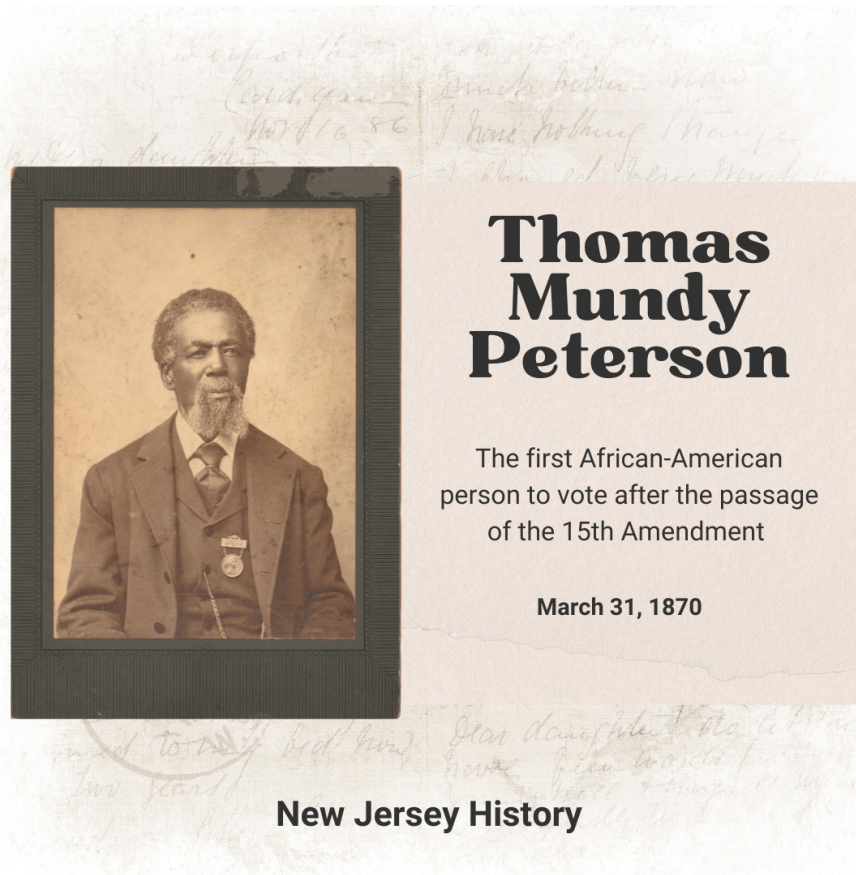
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# Share New Jersey History

Below you will find drafted text and graphics about New Jersey's history that you can simply copy and paste to your social media accounts.

This month our suggested shares the history of Thomas Mundy Peterson, the first African American to vote following the passage of the 15th Amendment in 1870.



#### Suggested Copy:

In 1870, Thomas Mundy Peterson became the first African American person to vote after the passing of the 15th Amendment. Born in Metuchen, Peterson lived the majority of his life in Perth Amboy. It was in there that Peterson cast his historic ballot even though New Jersey had not yet ratified the 15th Amendment.

Due to the significance of this event, the Thomas Mundy Peterson Park in Perth Amboy has been added to the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail. A historical marker explaining Peterson's contribution to New Jersey's history will be erected in the park later this fall.

For more information about Thomas Mundy Peterson and the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail, visit [www.bit.ly/njbh](http://www.bit.ly/njbh).

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If you have any questions about the post, would like to look at our sources, or are interested in learning more about the topic, we are

happy to assist! Please send an email with your questions to Rachel Thimke at [rachel.thimke@sos.nj.gov](mailto:rachel.thimke@sos.nj.gov).



# NJHC Grantee Spotlight

## Friends of the Abraham Staats House South Bound Brook, New Jersey



Photo Credit: Journey Through Jersey

The Friends of Abraham Staats House support the ongoing restoration, preservation and interpretation of the historic [Abraham Staats House](#). The Abraham Staats House was built in 1740 near the banks of the Raritan River. The property is associated with significant events during the American Revolution and with the growth of the South Bound Brook community during the early 19th century. Today, the museum provides a tangible link to the past through its historic structure in addition to its local history exhibits.

During the 2023 fiscal year, the Friends of the Abraham Staats House received \$11,500 from the New Jersey Historical Commission as an Inclusive History Grant to uncover the history of slavery at the site. This funding allowed the Abraham Staats House staff to collaborate with the Robert Morris School in South Bound Brook and the Witness

Stone Project.

After a year of research and curriculum development, the Abraham Staats House installed a Witness Stone memorial on their property to honor the life and work of Harvy "Henry" Staats who was enslaved by the Staats family. During the installation ceremony, Robert Morris School students shared their research projects about the history of slavery at the Staats House, which contributed to the final memorial.

Friends of the Abraham Staats  
House

### **About New Jersey Historical Commission Grant Programs:**

One of the many ways we fulfill our mission of sharing and preserving New Jersey's history is through an active grant program. Grant-making has been an integral part of the NJHC's activities for over fifty years. From its inception, Project Grants, followed by General Operating Support and later County History Partnership Program grants, enable the NJHC to strengthen New Jersey history organizations and activities statewide.

NJHC Grant Opportunities



# NJHC Resource Spotlight

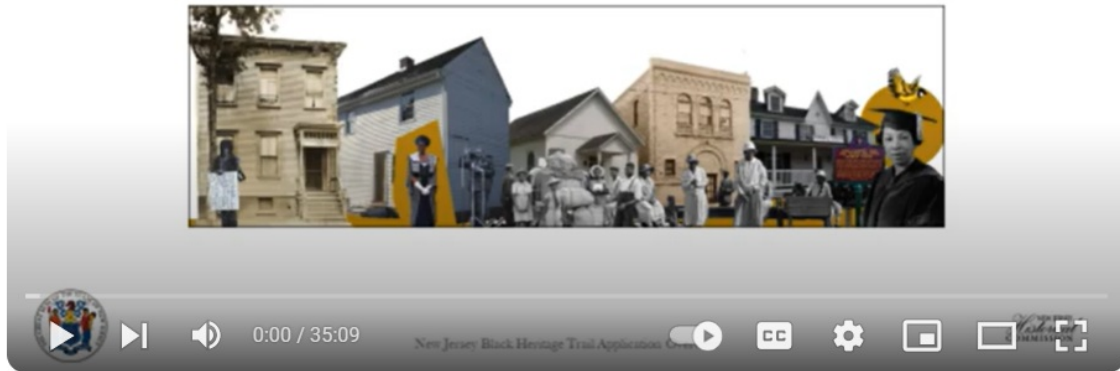
## **NJHC Resource Spotlight**

**Black Heritage Trail Nomination Walk-Through**

# New Jersey Black Heritage Trail

Application Overview

*Fall/Winter 2024*



## Black Heritage Trail Fall 2024 Application Video

To help members of the public prepare for the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail's Fall/Winter 2024 nomination cycle, the Black Heritage Trail team has recorded a step-by-step walkthrough of the nomination submission process and required documentation.

The video can be found on the New Jersey Historical Commission's YouTube page at [Black Heritage Trail Fall 2024 Application Video \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

[Black Heritage Trail Nomination Video](#)



## Upcoming Events

**Funding Your Black History Project in New Jersey**  
June 27, 2024 at 6:30 PM

# FUNDING YOUR BLACK HISTORY PROJECT IN NEW JERSEY

JUNETEENTH 2024



Get tips from New Jersey public historians in the field on how to prepare your County History Partnership application.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**  
6:30 - 8:00 PM

**KRISTAL C. LANGFORD,**  
Lost Souls Project

**ALGERNON WARD,**  
6th Regiment U.S. Colored Troops &  
Locust Hill Cemetery



REGISTER FOR ZOOM MEETING AT:  
<https://bit.ly/bhfunding>



To support the work of Black history organizations in New Jersey, the NJHC African American History Program has hosted information sessions about the County History Partnership Program (CHPP) throughout the month of June.

The final installment in this series will be held on June 27th. During this evening webinar, public historians, Kristal Langford (Lost Souls Project) and Algernon Ward, (6th Regiment US Colored Troops), will detail how they translate their Black history project to the CHPP grant application and formulate the required budget. All are welcomed!

June 27, 2024

6:30 - 8:00pm

Register for the zoom link at <https://bit.ly/bhfunding>

Register Here

**Tavern Talks at Odd Bird Brewing**  
June 30, 2024 at 12pm



**Sunday, June 30th**

**12:00 - 2:00 PM**

**Tickets: [bit.ly/RevNJTT](https://bit.ly/RevNJTT)**



"An afternoon of  
immersive history  
and beer"

On June 30th, RevolutionNJ will host their popular "Tavern Talk" series at Odd Bird Brewing in Stockton, New Jersey. During this interactive event, attendees will get the chance to talk with reenactors and draw their own conclusions about the past.

Participants will be invited to imagine being in a colonial tavern in 1783, after the Treaty of Paris was signed. The tavern air smells like beer and fresh government. Folks will discuss new and exciting ways to fill the British Empire-shaped hole left behind by the War. What kind of government do we want? What will representation look like? Who will have a say in how things are done? What exactly should this new constitution consider?

Odd Bird Brewing, Stockton NJ Sunday, June 30, 12-2 PM  
Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/RevNJTT>

Tavern Talks

**Explore New Jersey & Discover the Past with  
History Pinned!**

Join us!

# History Pinned



Collect all five to win a prize!  
[revnj.org/history-pinned](http://revnj.org/history-pinned)

**CIVIC**  
**SEASON**



**RevolutionNJ**

1776 • 2026 | ENGAGE THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

[TheCivicSeason.com](http://TheCivicSeason.com)

It's officially Civic Season which makes it the perfect time to start History Pinned!

To help share the history of civics in New Jersey, [RevolutionNJ](http://RevolutionNJ) has teamed up with five historic sites to hand out special-edition History Pinned buttons during an extended Civic Season. Collect all five and win a History Hero prize!

History Pinned 2024 Sites:

- [Alice Paul Institute](#)
- [American Labor Museum](#)
- [Hoboken Historical Museum](#)
- [New Jersey State Museum](#)
- [T. Thomas Fortune Cultural Center](#)

Unfamiliar with Civic Season? Civic Season is a new tradition for self-discovery and civic upskilling, co-created by Gen Z and cultural institutions. Learn more at <https://www.thecivicseason.com/>.

History Pinned





# In Other News

## New Jersey Black Heritage Trail Call for Fall/Winter 2024 Nominations

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



The New Jersey Historical Commission is currently accepting Letters of Intent (LOI) for the Fall/Spring 2024 nominations cycle.

**LOI REVIEW PERIOD: JUNE 19 - JULY 22, 2024**

**\*ONLINE APPLICATION OPENS: JULY 1, 2024**

**ONLINE APPLICATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 AT 2:00 PM**

**\*All nominators must have submitted an LOI prior to applying.**

Read the guidelines and application or view the pre-recorded application webinar here:

<https://bit.ly/njbh>

The next round of New Jersey Black Heritage Trail nominations will open on July 1st! This is an excellent opportunity for organizations and individuals to uplift and memorialize Black history across the state.

For this round, nominators will be required to submit a letter of intent (LOI) **before** submitting their nomination packet. Nominators who do not submit an LOI will be asked to resubmit for a future cycle. Nominators may begin submitting LOIs now to [NJBlackHeritageTrail@sos.nj.gov](mailto:NJBlackHeritageTrail@sos.nj.gov), and they are due by July 22, 2024.

The nomination portal will open on July 1, 2024. All nominations for the Fall/Winter 2024 cycle must be submitted by 2:00pm on September 16, 2024.

For the nomination guidelines, a recorded nomination webinar, and the nomination link, please visit: <https://bit.ly/njbh>.

New Jersey Black Heritage  
Trail

## New Jersey History Conference December 3, 2024



The poster features a background image of a hand raised in a classroom. The text is overlaid on a dark blue rectangular area. Logos for RevolutionNJ and the New Jersey Historical Commission are at the top. The main title is 'New Jersey History Conference'. Below it is the theme 'Imperfectly Civil: History of Politics & Civics in NJ'. At the bottom, it lists the date 'Tuesday, December 3, 2024' and the location 'Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick'.

 **RevolutionNJ**  
1776 • 2026 | ENGAGE THE PAST. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

 NEW JERSEY  
*Historical*  
COMMISSION

# New Jersey History Conference

*Imperfectly Civil:  
History of Politics & Civics in NJ*

 **Tuesday**  
December 3, 2024

 **Douglass Student Center**  
100 George Street, New Brunswick

Save the date for the New Jersey History Conference on December 3rd at the Rutgers New Brunswick Douglass Student Center!

This year's theme, *Imperfectly Civil: History of Politics & Civics in New Jersey*, will examine issues such as the history of political

participation, freedom of the press, and voting rights in New Jersey in addition to exploring how historians and history organizations can support democracy today.

Stay tuned for more information about registration and our call for proposals.

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*Within the New Jersey Department of State, the New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) is a state agency dedicated to the advancement of public knowledge and preservation of New Jersey history. Established by law in 1967, its work is founded on the fundamental belief that an understanding of our shared heritage is essential to sustaining a cohesive and robust democracy.*



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