



NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

Past Matters

August 2024

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

In this issue:

- **Share New Jersey History**
 - New Jersey's State Dinosaur
- **NJHC Grantee Spotlight**
 - The Longest Yarn
- **NJHC Resource Spotlight**
 - RevolutionNJ Community Program
- **Upcoming Events**
 - RevolutionNJ Race Series
 - Mildred Barry Garvin Prize
 - Black History Events in New Jersey
- **In Other News**
 - Black Joy and Resilience Project
 - 2023 Richard P. McCormick Prize Winner
 - *Still* Postshow



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 we are sharing the history of New Jersey's state dinosaur - the *Hadrosaurus foulkii*.



New Jersey's State Dinosaur

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The *Hadrosaurus foulkii*,
uncovered in 1858 in
Haddonfield, NJ, was the first
nearly-complete dinosaur
skeleton ever found.

Suggested Copy:

You may think of the American West when you think of dinosaur fossils, but the first national dinosaur-phenomenon was actually found here in New Jersey.

The Hadrosaurus foulkii (Latin for "Foulke's bulky lizard"), uncovered in 1858, was the most complete dinosaur skeleton that had been found up to that point. To share this amazing find with the public, the fossils were put on display in Philadelphia. This was the first time a dinosaur skeleton was mounted for public display. The popularity of the Hadrosaurus fueled new advances in paleontology and heightened public interest in the field.

For more New Jersey history, visit history.nj.gov.

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.



NJHC Grantee Spotlight

The Longest Yarn Cape May County Regrant Program



With support from the New Jersey Historical Commission's County History Partnership Program, Cape May County supported local artists and historians participating in the international *The Longest Yarn* project.

The Longest Yarn is a three-dimensional wool tapestry, knitted and crocheted by hundreds of volunteers worldwide. Created with guidance from historians, retained by the project, to be historically accurate, each scene has been selected by the creator to depict the story of this momentous day in history, each scene unique and made with care. It measures 80 meters (265 feet) and represents the 80 years since D-Day and the 80 days it took for the Allies to liberate Paris. The Longest Yarn tells the momentous story of June 6, from the build-up and launch in England through the Normandy invasion.

Cape May's participation in this project is one of many examples of the ways in which the NJHC's County History Partnership Program helps fund low-investment projects with large impacts.

The Longest Yarn, Cape
May

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
RevolutionNJ Communities



America will turn 250 on July 4th, 2026, and RevolutionNJ is helping municipalities get ready for this once-in-a-generation commemoration.

Counties, cities, townships, and villages are all invited to join the program by passing a resolution and informing RevolutionNJ. Those who become an official RevolutionNJ Community will receive access to planning resources and exclusive workshops and will be the first to learn about new opportunities from RevolutionNJ and national commemoration partners such as America250 and Keep America Beautiful. RevolutionNJ Communities also receive assistance from RevolutionNJ in promoting their initiatives and programming.

To learn more and to share this opportunity with your constituents, visit <https://www.revunj.org/communities>.

RevolutionNJ Community Program



Upcoming Events

RevolutionNJ Race & Family Fun Walk Series
Princeton Battlefield State Park, September 8, 2024



RevNJ Race Series

5K & Family Fun Walk

Join us for a 5K race & family fun walk around Princeton Battlefield State Park. The race will be accompanied with historic activities for the whole family.



Sunday
September 8



500 Mercer Road
Princeton, NJ

bit.ly/PrincetonRace

RevolutionNJ is hosting a series of races and family fun walks through Revolutionary War battlefields and other historic sites across the state.

The second event will be held at Princeton Battlefield State Park on September 8th. Participants can sign up for a 5K race or a one-mile family fun walk around the site of one of the longest battles of the American Revolution.

Registration for the 5K includes a shirt, commemorative magnet, and medal. Registration for the family fun walk will include a shirt and a commemorative magnet.

Upcoming Races:

- [September 8: Princeton Battlefield State Park](#)
- [October 13: East Jersey Old Town Village](#)
- [November 9: Historic Greenwich Township](#)

RevNJ Race
Series

Mildred Barry Garvin Prize

Accepting Nominations through September 17th



Mildred Barry Garvin Prize

SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING TEACHING OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IN NJ

NEW JERSEY
Historical
COMMISSION

Deadline: September 17, 2024

Learn more: <https://bit.ly/NJHCAwards>

This annual award of \$1,000 recognizes a New Jersey teacher, guidance counselor, or school librarian for the outstanding teaching of Black American history in kindergarten through high school, or outstanding performance in a related activity, such as developing curriculum materials. Individuals may be nominated by others, or they may self-nominate.

Nominations for the 2024 prize must be submitted electronically by September 17, 2024. Head to <https://bit.ly/NJHCAwards> for more information!

Submit a
Nomination

Black History Events in New Jersey



Explore, enjoy and learn at Black history museums and events in New Jersey.

Learn more at:

www.linktr.ee/blackhistorynj



Did you know the African American History Program launched a Black History Events in New Jersey list in June? It features events from the approved nomination sites of the NJ Black Heritage Trail as well as event listings from the New Jersey Historical Commission's grant program and our regrant program CHPP.

Visit the events list [here!](#)

You can also subscribe directly to the Linktree for reminders.

[NJ Black History Events](#)



In Other News

Black Joy and Resilience Project



Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum, one of the New Jersey organizations involved in the Black Joy and Resilience Project

The New Jersey Historical Commission (NJHC) has joined the Black Joy and Resilience project from the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSL) funded by the National Archives' National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

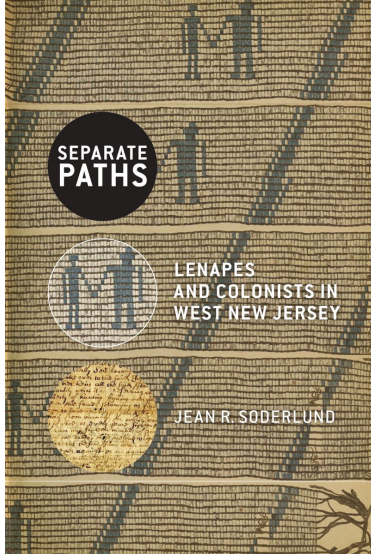
Dr. Synatra Smith, Project Manager for the NJHC's Black Heritage Trail and co-principal investigators for the project, stated, "I am so excited to work on this project and test a praxis that not only ensures we are building a trustful and respectful environment of meaningful collaboration with feedback loops, but also one that incorporates the community from a variety of entry points including education, programming, and partnership."

New Jersey organizations involved in this project include the Stoutsburg Sourland African American Museum, the Historical Society of Princeton, and Princeton University Library, as well as a photograph collection documenting the historically Black Chicken Bone Beach.

[Read the Full Story](#)

Press Release: Dr. Jean Soderlund wins 2023 McCormick Prize

The New Jersey Historical Commission, in partnership with the New Jersey Studies



Academic Alliance, have named Dr. Jean Soderlund as the winner of the 2023 Richard P. McCormick Prize for her publication *Separate Paths: Lenapes and Colonists in West New Jersey*.

This award-winning book dives into the history of West Jersey in the 1600s and the ways in which Lenape men and women navigated relations with the Swedes and Finns versus the incoming Quakers. The publication was chosen for its thorough research and important contribution to an under-researched aspect of New Jersey's history.

Full Press
Release

***Still* Post Show** with Noelle Lorraine Williams



On Sunday, July 21, 2024 Noelle Lorraine Williams, Director of the African American History Program and Black Heritage Trail attended a Post Show for the Premiere Stages at Kean production of *Still*. *Still*, is based on the true story of a meeting between William Still, a conductor of the Underground Railroad in Philadelphia, and formerly enslaved man Peter Friedman in the 1850s. It was written by Benjamin V. Marshall and directed by Marshall Jones III. Williams was interviewed by Katherine Quigley, Liberty Hall Museum. The Post Show talkbacks are created for audiences to engage more deeply with the play in select matinee performances.

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.



New Jersey Historical Commission | 33 West State St. P.O. Box 305 | Trenton, NJ 08625 US

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