

Celebrate!



1720 - 2020
300 Years of Pioneers

An At Home Celebration

Take a journey into New Providence's history with this family friendly booklet filled with activities to celebrate our town. This easy to follow and informative booklet includes local history, recipes, exciting challenges, trivia, and even a place for your own personal story. Engaging for all ages. * This information was gathered from Historical Society archives, government websites, and other research sites. If any readers identify an error, have a question or would like further information please send an email to Tricentennial@newprov.org

By: Maria Catena DeLuca

Be a part of history and submit your "My Story" (page 9) and Time Capsule (page 12) pages to be collected and archived. You can turn in printed pages to the Tricentennial box in the Borough Hall main lobby or email clerk@newprov.org



Revolution!



In 1776 New Jersey declared itself an independent state and joined the colonial side in the Revolutionary War. New Jersey was an important state during the Revolutionary War because of its location near the center of the thirteen colonies and between New York City and Philadelphia. Because of this, more battles were fought in New Jersey than in any other colony. The Americans and British fought 100 battles here, both large and small. Many people consider the Battle of Trenton to be the turning point of the Revolution. Immediately after winning Trenton, General George Washington won the battle of Princeton. Having lost two battles in a matter of hours, the British fled New Jersey for New York. Washington and his troops spent the rest of the winter in Morristown, and the United States was well on its way to victory. https://www.nj.gov/nj/about/history/short_history.html

New Providence residents took a keen interest in the Revolutionary War, heightened by the battles being fought nearby in Springfield and Morristown. There were few loyalists among them. There are forty eight recorded graves of New Providence Revolutionary Soldiers in the Presbyterian cemetery. The grave of Joseph Badgley, a founding resident of New Providence, can be seen at the cemetery in the Deserted Village of Feltsville. During the War of 1812, battling the British again, a command of 5,000 state militia was given to Major General Benjamin Ludlow of New Providence. He is also buried in the Presbyterian Church Cemetery. New Providence residents answered their country's call for the Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and the World Wars. There is one grave marked John U.S.C. Troops, which refers to the United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. The tablet mounted on a boulder that stands at the four corners, center of town, erected in honor of those who represented the Borough of New Providence in the World War contains seventy six names. *From Documents written by R.H. Badgley October 25, 1963 & The Colonial Graveyard of New Providence Presbyterian 1990*

The flag pole that is currently in front of New Providence's Salt Box Museum was once a much taller "Liberty Pole" in the center of town. Liberty poles or trees with Phrygian caps have been used since the Roman times as symbol of revolution. During Colonial times it was used as a symbol of protest against British rule and around which anti-British rallies were held.

E pluribus unum

The meaning of the phrase originates from the concept that out of the union of the original Thirteen Colonies emerged a new single nation. It is emblazoned across the scroll and clenched in the eagle's beak on the Great Seal of the United States.



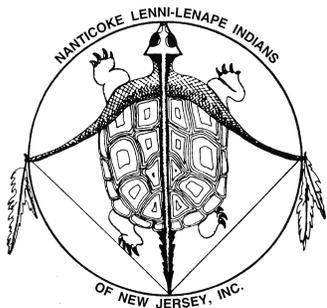


A Brief History of New Providence



New Providence was first known as the Village of Turkey, in the Township of Elizabeth in Essex County. The first settlers were Puritans who came by way of Elizabethtown NJ about 1720, up through the “West Fields” and over the Watchung Mountains. A fertile valley with river and streams, there were fruits, berries, fish and game in abundance. The area itself was named after the plentiful wild turkeys. A map from 1741 shows that the present Springfield Avenue was named “Turkey Road”. A few years after settlement the first church was built in 1737. In 1778, while alterations were being made, the church balcony collapsed but harmed no one. Deeming this an act of God, the people renamed the town New Providence, “providence” meaning the protective care of God or of nature as a spiritual power. In the late 1700s New Providence was the center for much of the Passaic Valley with mills, stores, taverns and hotels. Families for miles around came to the Presbyterian Church here, bringing their lunch and attending morning and afternoon services. The advent of the railroad to “The Summit” in the 1800s shifted the center of activity to that town and the growth of New Providence halted. However pavilions were built on the Passaic River and people came to fish, swim, boat and picnic here in New Providence. A local baseball team, parades and minstrel shows provided townspeople with holiday festivities and attracted visitors. Later the railroad through Murray Hill section encouraged building there, sparked by the fine homes of Carl H. Schultz, the “Mineral Water King” and his family. In the 20th century, greenhouses then later laboratories and industries promoted the development of individual houses and suburban subdivisions. With the building of its own High School New Providence saw another boom in residents. <https://newprovidencehistorical.com>

In the book “Historical Collections of New Jersey” by John W. Barber and Henry Howe, published in 1884, this item appears: “New Providence is 7 miles long and 2 miles wide, bounded on the Northeast by Springfield, Southeast by Westfield, South by Warren, Somerset County and Northwest by Chatham. The surface is hilly and the Eastern part mountainous. The township contains 2 churches, 4 stores, 1 paper factory, 1 saw mill, capital in manufacture \$16,700, 1 school with 25 scholars, and a population of 832.” At that time, New Providence included what is now known as Summit, Berkeley Heights, and the Deserted Village of Feltsville. Summit seceded in 1869, followed by Berkeley Heights/Feltsville in 1899. New Providence Township was then renamed the Borough of New Providence.



Lenape Nation

New Jersey's original inhabitants

<http://www.Lenapelifeways.org>

The Lenape (len-AH-pay) lived in an area they called Lenapehoking, which means Land of the Lenape. Their land included all of what is now New Jersey, eastern Pennsylvania, southeastern New York State, northern Delaware and a small section of southeastern Connecticut. As part of the Eastern Woodlands, Lenapehoking had many rivers, streams and lakes and was densely forested and rich in wildlife.

We now know that two related but distinct groups of Indians occupied Lenapehoking. Those living in the northern half (above the Raritan River and the Delaware Water Gap) spoke a *Munsee* dialect of the Eastern Algonquian Delaware language, while those to the south spoke *Unami* a slightly different dialect of the same language.



Homes

The Lenape made dome-shaped houses called *wigwams* where a small family or individual could live. They pushed a circle of poles into the ground and then bent them over one another to make a domed frame, which they covered with sheets of bark, skins or woven rush mats. Sometimes several families lived together in a larger *longhouse*, still

rounded on top, but longer. Inside the longhouse were platforms of poles on either side that could be used as seats or beds. Down the center was a row of fires to share. Openings in the roof let the smoke out. Corn and herbs were hung high in the roof and there was room to store other goods beside the doorway.

The Lenape lived in settled villages but did not stay in one place for the whole of their lives. Every ten or twelve years they had to move their entire village to a new site because they had used up many of the natural resources of their area. During the year, small groups might re-locate to temporary camps farther removed from the main village. Here they would stay for an indefinite time until they procured the desired materials or foods.

Prayer

Watch this video to hear today's Lenape Chief Chuck Gentlemoon DeMund perform a prayer and blessing on all living things. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJgB5Nq2pWU&feature=youtu.be>

A Few New Providence Historical Homes



1489 Springfield Ave was built in 1824. The original part of the house was built by Dr. Crossfield in the 18th century. The doctor was the son-in-law of Betsey Crane, who chronicled the building of the house in her diary. In 1836 the house became the property of the New Providence Methodist Church. The church sold the house in 1979. The home has exposed original beams, marble fireplace, and wide plank floor boards. An addition was put on the home in 1859 using materials from the original Methodist Church. The current residents are the 5th homeowners.



1539 Springfield Avenue was built in 1738 by Elnathan Cory, an early New Providence settler. The property was originally 450 acres, and his son Joseph Cory built his home next door. Joseph was mortally wounded at the battle of Springfield in 1780 while serving as a private in the Essex County militia. Great-grandson Abraham Cory served as a Union Army surgeon during the Civil War and is buried at the Methodist cemetery. The home features a hand-laid stone foundation, original wide-plank heart pine flooring, exposed beams and four fireplaces including the original kitchen hearth and bread oven.

Draw a picture of your home

Try this Colonial Recipe for Queen Cakes

(adapted for modern kitchen)

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
5 eggs
1 teaspoon lemon extract
1 teaspoon orange extract
2 cups plus 1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp cinnamon
2 cups currants

All of the ingredients should be at room temperature . Grease well and lightly flour a loaf pan or cupcake pan. Cream the butter and sugar. Add the eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Add the lemon and orange extracts, Sift 2 cups of flour mixture to the off mixture. Dust the currants with the remaining 1 tablespoon of flour so they do not sink to the bottom of the mixture. Fold the currants into the mixture. Bake in a preheated 325° F over for 1 hour and 20 minutes for loaf pan. 20 minutes for cupcakes or until well risen and the tops spring back when lightly touched. Cool in pan for 5-10 minutes before turning onto a rack. Optional: sprinkle with Powdered sugar.



TO MAKE QUEEN CAKES

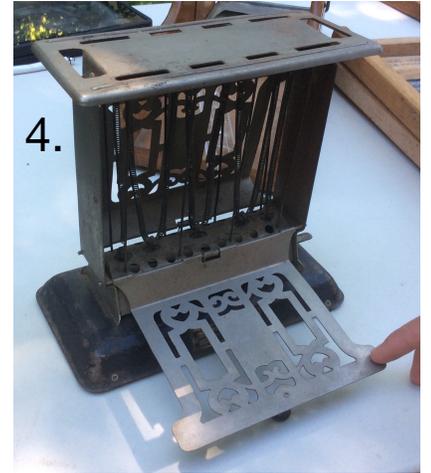
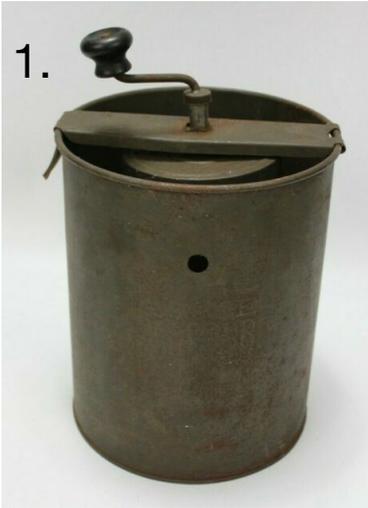
TAKE a pound of loaf-sugar, beat and sift it, a pound of flour well dried, a pound of butter, eight eggs, half a pound of currants washed and picked, grate a nutmeg, the same quantity of mace and cinnamon, work your butter to a cream, then put in your sugar, beat the whites of your eggs near half an hour, mix them with your sugar and butter, then beat your yolks near half an hour, and put them to your butter, beat them exceedingly well together, then put in your flour, spices, and the currants; when it is ready for the oven, bake them in tins, and dust a little sugar over them.

Hannah Glasse, *The Art of Cookery, Made Plain and Easy*, 7th ed. (London, 1760)



Guess the Antique Tools

Prior to the technological advances of the 20th century, each household chore required more manual labor. Below are some of the tools that were once considered “new and innovative”! Can you guess what they are? All of these tools can be found at the Salt Box Museum and you can find out what they are online on New Providence Borough website <https://www.newprov.org/2020-tricentennial-celebration-2/>.



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

What is a current tool or piece of technology that you think NP residents 50 years in the FUTURE may not recognize?

Historical Landmarks

Code Name “Chestnut”

In the pre-radar days of WWII, volunteers from New Providence, Summit, and Berkeley Heights maintained a 24-hour vigil at the civil defense Aircraft Observation Station in New Providence. Charged with spotting every plane overflight and noting the direction and number of aircraft, these volunteers relied only on human eyes and ears. Loyal they served around the clock from April 12, 1942 to June 14, 1945. The Station, code name “Chestnut”, was a wooden structure with an upper deck used for surveillance. After the War, the structure served as a residence until 1957 when it was replaced by the present house. The observation tower was located on what is now Fairmount Ave.



Murray Hill

Murray Hill covers less than two square miles and it is all thanks to one man Carl H. Schultz. He purchased 400 acres in this elevated area and founded Murray Hill in 1874. He had asthma and felt the air here was clear and pure. He gave the land for the rail station and had it constructed. In return, he asked that the station be called Murray Hill and that the Bernardsville Express stop there. He wanted an easy commute to his NYC office and named it after his favorite section of NYC. Carl had eleven children. With two children having moved away, he built ten homes in total in Murray Hill. His daughter Elsie Schultz Vilas' home later became St Andrew's Episcopal Church. *"Where Shadow and Substance Merge" by Jane Henry. And "A View of the Past", The Dispatch of New Providence & Berkeley Heights 4/5/73*

The New Providence Memorial Library

The library has had three different homes over the years. The first was located at 1283 Springfield Avenue in the Red Cross Rooms, then 1310 Springfield ave, ending at its current location. The library was renamed New Providence Memorial Library at the suggestion of the American Legion, becoming a memorial to the residents of New Providence who died while serving in the military during World War II. For more history visit the library's website here.



<https://www.newprovidencelibrary.org/about/history-of-npml>



My Story by: _____ Age _____

When did you or your family move to New Providence?

What school(s) did you or your children attend here?

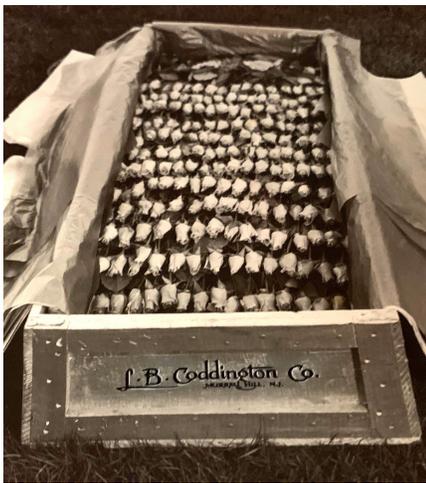
Favorite school memory

- 1822** First New Providence Academy established on Passaic Street. It was later sold and moved. Now 1312 Springfield.
- 1869** New Academy grades 1-12. Now Lassus Wherley 1243 Springfield Avenue.
- 1907** Lincoln School built. Second and third additions to follow. Was also the Junior High School. Housed student from K-9. Is now the Rec Center and Borough offices. Originally it faced Springfield ave.
- 1907-1957** Summit HS. NP students were accepted on a tuition basis into Summit HS.
- 1953** Hillview Elementary School on Central Ave, now Morris Union Juncture school.
- 1958** New Providence High School, Pioneer Drive, was built after failing to gain agreement to join other regional schools. Grades 9-12 originally.
- 1962** Allen W. Roberts Elementary was built at 80 Jones Drive. It was named after beloved NP resident and the first Superintendent of New Providence schools from 1938-1968.
- 1968** Salt Brook Elementary was built at 40 Maple Street.
- 1991** Middle School officially became part of NPHS

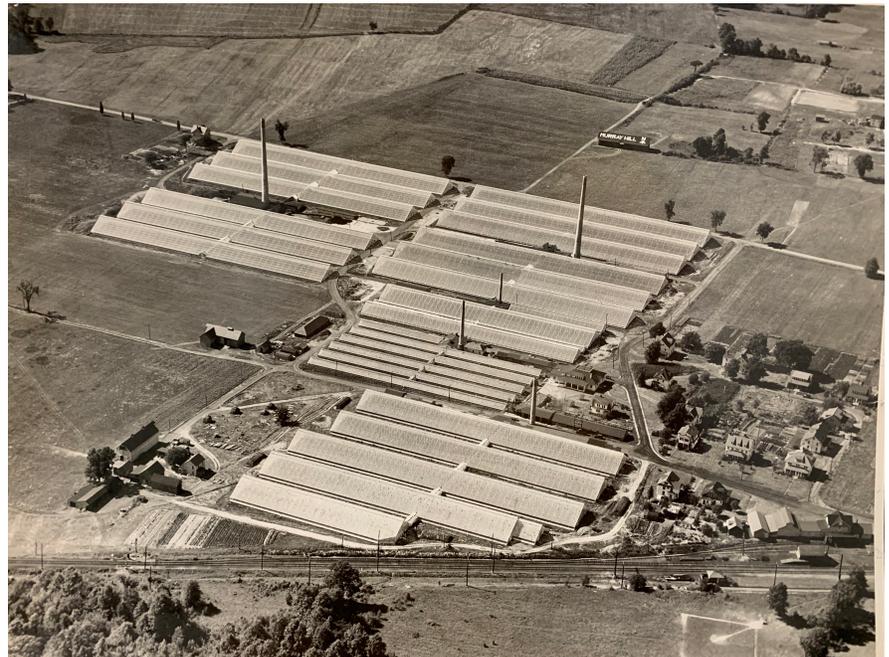
What are some of your favorite town events (parades, sporting games, street fairs..)

Blooming New Providence

L.B. Coddington Greenhouses were one of the six commercial rose growers in New Providence. In 1895 L.B. Coddington Sr started in business with one greenhouse. Under his son Lyman Badgley Coddington Jr, or “June” as he was known, the business expanded to 5 1/2 acres of greenhouses. They became the 10th largest rose grower in the East. There were over 100,00 panes of glass in 10 greenhouses. They were heated with steam produced by boilers of coal and oil. Roses accounted for 75% of the Coddington business. They also cultivated Gardenias, Stephanotis, Camellias, and Eucharis Lillies. Coddington roses were photographed with movie stars and even Queen Elizabeth when she visited the United States.



* Have you visited the Coddington Room at the New Providence Memorial Library?



What would you like to grow if you could?



Challenge:

To plant anything from a flower in the window to a garden in your yard.



NJ During the 1918 Influenza Epidemic

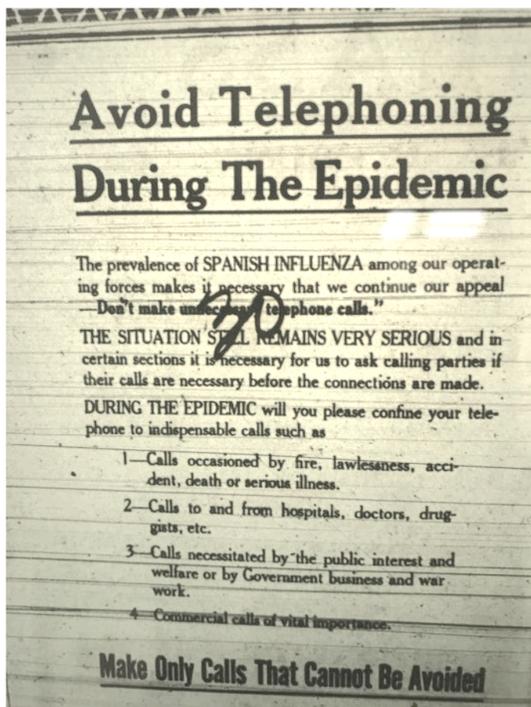
(commonly referred to as Spanish Flu)

Though these may seem like unprecedented times to us, New Providence, NJ and the United States have struggled with epidemics before.

In the spring of 1918, just as the man-made horrors of [World War I](#) were finally starting to wind down, Mother Nature unleashed the deadliest strain of influenza in [modern history](#). The virus infected as much as 40 percent of the global population over the next 18 months. Of these, an estimated 20 to 50 million perished—more than the roughly 17 million people killed during the First World War. The pandemic's grasp stretched from the United States and Europe to the remote reaches of Greenland and the Pacific Islands. Its victims included the likes of [President Woodrow Wilson](#), who contracted it while negotiating the [Treaty of Versailles](#) in early 1919.

As the pandemic reached epic proportions in the [fall of 1918](#), it became commonly known as the "[Spanish Flu](#)" or the "Spanish Lady" in the United States and Europe. Many assumed this was because the sickness had originated on the Iberian Peninsula, but the nickname was actually the result of a widespread misunderstanding. Spain was one of only a few major European countries to remain neutral during World War I. Unlike in the Allied and Central Powers nations, where wartime censors suppressed news of the flu to avoid affecting morale, the Spanish media was free to report on it in gory detail. News of the sickness first made headlines in Madrid in late-May 1918, and coverage only increased after the Spanish King Alfonso XIII came down with a nasty case a week later. Since nations undergoing a media blackout could only read in depth accounts from Spanish news sources, they naturally assumed that the country was the pandemic's ground zero. The Spanish, meanwhile, believed the virus had spread to them from France, so they took to calling it the "French Flu."

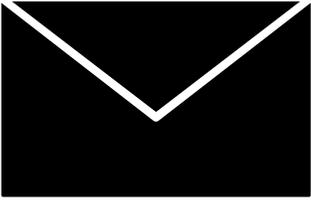
<https://www.history.com/news/why-was-it-called-the-spanish-flu>



Like many states on the East Coast NJ was hit hard and early during the 1918-1919 influenza epidemic. Initially in September 1918 the epidemic was ravaging the military camps full of soldiers waiting for deployment to Europe. During this time the United States was also battling WWI. In the beginning circulars warning of influenza's dangers were printed and sent home with students. On October 5th 1918 the NJ Board of health issued a mandatory statewide order closing of all churches, theaters, movie houses, dance halls, saloons, soda fountains and other places of public amusement and congregation. Public gatherings such as funerals were also prohibited. Saloons, in places like Newark, were allowed to sell bottles of liquor with a doctors prescription. Whiskey was seen as a reliable treatment for influenza. Local Boards of Health were encouraged to close schools and public transportation. Hospitals were overcrowded with sick. This epidemic of Influenza A (H1N1) became known as the Spanish Flu. (<https://www.influenzaarchive.org/cities/city-newark.html#>)

This is a public service announcement in the Bergen Evening Record about using the phone while the 1918 Flu Pandemic was at its peak in Northern NJ during the fall of that year. (photo Ricardo Kaulesar/northjersey.com)





You are living through a historical pandemic. What would you write about this experience if it was for a news article, or a time capsule?

Written by: _____ Age: _____ Date: _____



Timeline of New Providence

Courtesy of the New Providence Historical Society

- 1664** – Land in area purchased from the Leni Lenape tribe by James, Duke of York, brother to King Charles II.
- 1720** – First European settlers arrive.
- 1737** – Presbyterian Church formed.
- 1750** – The name “Turkey” changed to “New Providence”
- 1786** – Methodist Episcopal Church formed?
- 1793** – Became Springfield Township, part of Essex County
- 1809** -Became New Providence Township
- 1822** – First New Providence Academy established, on Passaic Street. (It was later sold and moved. Now 1312 Springfield.
- 1857** – Union County formed.
- 1869** – Summit seceded.
- 1869** – New Academy built (Now 1243 Springfield Avenue.)
- 1891** – St. Luke’s Reformed Episcopal Church formed.
- 1899** – New Providence Borough formed. New Providence township (now Berkeley Heights) separated.
- 1902** – Fire Department formed.
- 1907** – Lincoln School built.
- 1917** – Academy Building sold to Borough for \$1. The building became Borough Hall.
- 1918** – Our Lady of Peace was formed as a mission on Springfield Avenue.
- 1921** – Free Public Library formed.
- 1932** – Police Department formed.
- 1952** – Rescue Department formed.
- 1953** – Hillview School formed.
- 1957** – Faith Lutheran Church built.
- 1958** – New Providence High School built.
- 1960** – St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church formed.
- 1962** – Allen W. Roberts School built.
- 1966** – New Providence Historical Society established
- 1967** – Salt Box house moved to 1350 Springfield Avenue to become the “Salt Box Museum.”
- 1968** – Salt Brook School built.
- 1980** – Lincoln School sold to Borough for \$1. The property is used for new municipal center.
- 1994** – Hillview School is sold to the Morris-Union Jointure Commission

Write your own personal timeline

