



Volume 27 Issue 5

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance

Fall, 2023

ROCKINGHAM

George Washington's final headquarters in 1783
 84 Laurel Avenue/ Route 603, Franklin Township, NJ

The RMHA will make their first return visit to Rockingham for their Fall meeting, November 18, 2023. 10 a.m.-noon



Featured on Page 1 of the Fifth Edition of the *HISTORIC SITES IN THE RARITAN & MILLSTONE VALLEY*, Rockingham is believed to be the second oldest house in the Millstone River Valley, its original rooms built about 1710. It was greatly enlarged in the 1760s gradually adding land to a total of over 360 acres. It is listed on the National and States Historic Registers. In June of 1783, a small number of Pennsylvania troops of the Continental Army, not having received their back pay for almost a year, went into revolt and marched upon Philadelphia. Congress then removed themselves to Princeton, New Jersey meeting in Nassau Hall. Requesting Washington's presence in Princeton, from August 23 of 1783 until November 10, Washington made Rockingham his last war-time headquarters. It was occupied by General and Mrs. Washington for a longer period than any other house in New Jersey. Here Washington sat for two portraits, one of which was painted by William Dunlap of Perth Amboy and now hangs in the US Senate Chamber.

News of the signing of the Treaty of Paris ending the war reached Rockingham and Congress on October 31, 1783. It was at Rockingham that Washington wrote his *Farewell Orders to the Armies of the United States*, giving thanks and praise to his troops and announcing his retirement from military service. It was dispatched to West Point and read to his troops there on November 2 and published in Philadelphia newspapers thereafter. He formally resigned his commission to Congress in Annapolis and retired to private life.

For close handicap access information, call the office at 609-683-7132. Although not original to Rockingham, a charming 100-year-old stone building is open for events and serves as a museum shop. Newly arrived guests may stop by to pick up maps, brochures and other site literature, and purchase a wide variety of toys, gifts, and sundries. <https://www.rockingham.net/history>

DIRECTIONS

DIRECTIONS to Rockingham
 From Route 27 S turn right on
 Laurel Avenue (Route 603)
 Rockingham is one mile north,
 On the left (west) side of the avenue.
 Parking lot is past the mansion and
 a tree line on the left also. From
 Route 206 take Route 518 through
 Rocky Hill & turn right at Route 603.
 Travel about 1 mile. Parking lot is
 on right past Trap Rock Industries,
 marked by a brown sign with white
 lettering. See wooden fencing.

SAVE THESE DATES

Winter Board Meeting

March 16, 2024

Spring Board Meeting

May 18, 2024

George Washington Birthday Party

February 17, 2024

Annual Meeting Luncheon

April 20, 2024

RARITAN-MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

P O Box 5583, Somerset, NJ 08875-5583

www.raritanmillstone.org

An organization of individuals, organizations,
 and sites working to promote preservation and
 understanding of the rich, eventful, and cultural
 sites located in Central New Jersey.

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meets on the third or fourth Saturday of

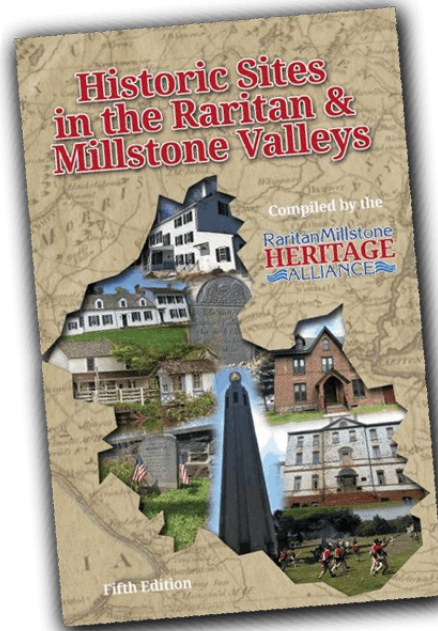
March, May, September, November

YOUR LINK TO THE PUBLIC:

The Link is on a quarterly publication schedule.
 News of major upcoming events for possible
 placement in the newsletter may be mailed,
 emailed, or faxed to the following address. Any
 questions, please contact: Donald J. Peck,
 Editor, The Clausen Company
 P.O. Box 140
 Fords, NJ 08863

RHMA ANNOUNCES NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

By Gordon Bond



Having successfully assisted the Alliance with the production of the “Fifth Edition” to its guide *HISTORIC SITES IN THE RARITAN & MILLSTONE VALLEYS* in 2019, the Alliance’s website was in danger of looking outdated, out-of-touch and not a good reflection of the organization, even if it is historic by nature! By the close of 2022, the Alliance agreed to make the site more attractive and useful to visitors, a better tool for fulfilling its mission.

Perhaps the greatest improvement is the addition of an interactive map version of the “Guide Book.” Users will now be able to search on names, towns, types of sites, and history to find local history resources in their areas, find them on a map, and review information about them in a pop-up when they click on the icon. Now visitors can have a printed copy or access the printed guide book on line by visiting a specific site on line or printing parts are all of the Guide. Still available are the back issues of our newsletter *The Link*, events calendars, pictures from programs, the ability to join, renew, and donate online or by mail. The last step will be for member-sites to confirm their map information is up-to-date, and then it can be more widely shared with the New Jersey history community.



Celebrating the history and culture of New Jersey's Raritan-Millstone River Valley!

RARITAN MILLSTONE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

Membership Contribution

- Membership Fees**
- Individual \$35
 - Site \$35
 - Household \$50

- Additional Support Levels**
- Benefactor \$1,000
 - Patron \$ 500
 - Sponsor \$ 250
 - Donor \$ 100

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please return this form with your check

To: Raritan Millstone Heritage Alliance
PO Box 5583
Somerset, NJ 08875-5583

Thank you!

Visit our website: raritanmillstone.org

The Raritan-Millstone Heritage Alliance consists of committed individuals and organizations representing sites within the region of Raritan and Millstone systems. In an area that has continually contributed to the strength of the United States, we seek through our programs to promote, protect and preserve an understanding of our rich historical, cultural and educational heritage as we work to be a model for current and future generations by promoting the rich heritage of our American society.