

Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage Association (WHODP): 2016 Recap

January

WHODP Association launched www.wallacehouseassociation.org providing visitor information and promoting the two historic sites and related events. The Association received a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, to create this site.

February

"Middlebrook 101: A Comprehensive Look" was presented to a standing-room-only crowd by Jim Kurzenberger, Historic Preservation Specialist. The presentation was followed by the Annual Meeting of the WHODP Association. (Feb. 18)

In honor of George Washington's birthday, Jim Kurzenberger presented a "Headquarters Theme Tour of the Wallace House" emphasizing the details of General Washington's stay at Hope Farm, the country seat of John Wallace. (Feb. 21)

The Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage were a scheduled stop on the Five Generals' Tour.

March

The Association produced a new membership brochure promoting the two sites and the benefits of membership. This brochure has been distributed at events, the sites and other locations.

April

The Association funded work at the Old Dutch Parsonage: Re-lathing, repairing, and replacing broken plaster and lath; masonry; repair and reconstruction of woodwork.

We launched a Facebook page to promote the Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage.

May

A "Somerville Through Time" program was presented by authors Linda J. Barth and Robert H. Barth as they shared historic Somerville photos and stories from their recently published book. They have generously been donating half of the proceeds from their book to our Association.

June

Members of the Association Board, David Hollod, Cynthia Hollod and Carol Kieffer represented the historic sites at Somerset Patriots ballpark, as part of the team's Patriots Night. (June 14)

August

Jim Kurzenberger, Historic Preservation Specialist, retired after over 30 years of commitment to the stewardship of the Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage. His work is greatly appreciated by the WHODP Association and will be a legacy for future generations.

September

The State of NJ, Department of Environmental Protection, appointed Hillary Murtha, Ph.D., as Acting Curator of the WHODP historic sites.

October

"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Tombstones and Cemeteries (But were Afraid to Ask)" was presented by historian Mark Nonesteid. (Oct. 29)

December

The Holiday Program "Candle Light Tours and Music at the Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage," featured tours of the Wallace House by costumed interpreters presenting Mrs. Mary Wallace, hearthside cooking demonstrations, and period music by Robert Moulard at the Old Dutch Parsonage. (Dec. 9)