



Historical Society Hamilton

Newsletter

February 2025

2025 EVENTS:

Upcoming

[HOW THE HOLOCAUST
IMPACTED NJ: THEN AND
NOW](#)

SPEAKER: DOUGLAS CERVI,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NJ
COMMISSION ON HOLOCAUST

MARCH 26, WEDNESDAY,

**7:30 PM, FELLOWSHIP HALL AT
THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
MAIN ST. MAYS LANDING**

**FREE TO ALL AND REFRESHMENTS
WILL BE PROVIDED.**

NEXT:

5/28TH EARLY SHIPBUILDING

**7/23RD WOMEN'S
EXPERIENCE DURING
REVOLUTIONARY WAR**

9/24TH GO BY TRAIN!

11/19 TO BE ANNOUNCED

MUSEUM OPEN

SATURDAYS, 9-12

**COME VISIT OUR
DISPLAYS AND CONSIDER
VOLUNTEERING. BE A
PART OF THE
COMMUNITY AND PASS
ALONG HISTORY.**

Community Band, how fun is that?

Extending a gracious "Than You" to the Western Atlantic wind Ensemble for the Winter Celebration Concert held on Dec. 11th at Wm. Davies Middle School. The evening was accompanied by the St. Nicholas Aurora Chorale with their musical selections while also getting the audience to use their vocal skills. Community bands and choirs stand out as a vibrant and integral part of local culture. These ensembles, often composed of amateur musicians from various walks of life, embody the spirit of togetherness and shared passion for music.

This led to opening the data files at the museum to discover community bands were often called "Cornet Bands". Before electric powered sound systems and recordings, area citizens often accompanied tunes to various outdoor activities and celebrations. Following the Civil War, Cornet bands used various types of brass instruments. Mays Landing was no stranger to the community resource.

In 1888, the Wells Cornet Band of Mays Landing was formed. In 1879, the drum corps performed evening serenades for the newly married citizens. The band was headquartered opposite the Union Hotel in the Mays Landing Water Power Store (more recently the Masonic Lodge). From the balcony there, they gave a series of open-air concerts. From the Veals Opera House, they provided music for "Escaped From The Law". A copy of this 1911 program can be viewed at the museum.

In 1912, Mays Landing's chief suburb known as Sugar Hill organized a brass band. The data file describes, "Sugar Hill, is becoming quite a thickly populated and progressive district, so much so that the citizens have organized a baseball team and a brass band".

Photos will be posted also to Instagram and in the museum of the bands and community members names. Come out and view this display. Many of the names you will recognize. Through their dedication and passion, these bands will keep the music playing, resonating in the hearts of their communities for generations to come.

So, I ask you, "How fun are community bands?"

Written by Donna Roome-Schieder

Welcome 2025

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