

New Jersey Historical Commission

**Richard J. Hughes Award**

Joseph G. Bilby

Joseph G. Bilby is presented the Richard J. Hughes Award for a lifetime of outstanding achievement in the field of New Jersey history. A noted author, gifted public speaker, museum curator and go-to source for the state's military history, Bilby is a stalwart of New Jersey history.

Bilby was born in Newark, New Jersey in 1943. He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in history from Seton Hall University and served as a lieutenant in the First Infantry Division in Vietnam from 1966-1967 and in the Army Reserve as assistant economics officer in the 303rd Civil Affairs Company from 1968-1970. He is retired from his position as Supervising Investigator for the New Jersey Department of Labor's Central Office and has taught military history on the community college level and lectured widely on Civil War and New Jersey history. He is currently the part-time assistant curator of the New Jersey National Guard and Militia Museum, and a freelance writer and historical consultant. Bilby is the author, editor or co-author of twenty-one books and over 400 articles on New Jersey history, folklore, military history, and outdoor subjects. His work appears on the internet and in print. He is a columnist for *The Civil War News* and *New Jersey Sportsmen News*, and a book reviewer for *The Civil War News*.

Bilby has appeared on the History Channel's *Civil War Journal*, the Discovery Channel's *Discovery Magazine*, and RTE, the Irish National television network, as an expert on the Civil War and 19th century firearms. He penned the historical liner notes for David Kincaid's music albums *The Irish Volunteer* and *The Irish American's Song*. He was a panelist for the New Jersey Historical Commission's 1996 seminar on Civil War Studies, a trustee of the New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association, and a member of New Jersey's official Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee. He served as the publications editor and content editor of the Sesquicentennial Committee's website. He has lectured widely in New Jersey, at libraries, bookstores, Civil War Roundtables, historical societies and historical events, from Cape May to Sussex Counties.

Bilby is an accomplished and prolific author. He is a recognized authority on Civil War history, especially the experience of Irish and African-American soldiers. He has also written extensively on New Jersey history, especially the state's military history, Asbury Park. His books have won numerous awards. Of particular note, his volumes: *Remember You Are Jerseymen: A Military History of New Jersey's Troops in the Civil War* and *New Jersey Goes to War* are both listed on the New Jersey Historical Commission's list of "101 Great New Jersey Books."

Bilby also contributed entries on historical and outdoor subjects to the *Encyclopedia of New Jersey*. A second, expanded, edition of his history of the 15th New Jersey Infantry was published in July 2001. He was a guest curator for the New Jersey State Museum's New Jersey Civil War flags exhibit and a consultant to the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission's 2004 Civil War exhibit. He was a member of the Board of Review for the Princeton Historical Society's 2007 Civil War exhibit; an assistant curator for the Middlesex County Heritage Commission's 2017 World War I exhibit; and has also reviewed and edited manuscripts for Rutgers and the State University of New York presses.

Our understanding of New Jersey history is much richer thanks to Bilby's passion for the past. Intelligent, inquisitive and witty, Bilby's research, writing, and presentations have brought the stories of New Jersey history to life.

### **Alfred E. Driscoll Prize**

Raechel Lutz

Lutz's dissertation, *Crude Conservation: Nature, Pollution and Technology at Standard Oil's New Jersey Refineries, 1870-2000*, examines the development and environmental impact of petroleum refining practices at Standard Oil of New Jersey's Bayonne and Linden locations. Specifically, Lutz traces the history of pollution and environmental damage caused by oil refining at these two New Jersey facilities, and corporate, community and political responses to this pollution. She argues that Standard Oil of New Jersey used a carefully crafted reputation for scientific and technological expertise to convince the public that it had the knowledge and skills to respond to environmental problems without the need for governmental regulation and oversight.

This dissertation raises important questions about the relationship between industry, government and local communities as they responded to the problems of industrialization over the course of the late 19th and 20th centuries. Lutz's research addresses an under-examined topic in New Jersey history – the development and environmental impact of heavy industry in the state during the 20th century.

The dissertation is well-written and draws upon a wide range of primary and secondary sources, includes corporate and personal papers, government reports, newspapers and corporate advertising. Lutz's use of corporate promotional material is particularly effective. Accordingly, this dissertation is an important contribution to the study of modern New Jersey history.

### **Award of Recognition**

Linda J. Barth

Linda J. Barth is a tireless advocate for New Jersey history and through her extensive publications and presentations has shared the untold stories of New Jersey's past with generations of New Jerseyans. Barth enriches our understanding of New Jersey past.

Barth grew up along the canal in South Bound Brook. She received her B.A. in elementary education from Paterson State College and taught elementary school for twenty-five years. After college, she became involved with the Friends of the Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage, two state historic sites in Somerset County. She served as secretary and then president of this group. Linda and her husband Bob are champions of New Jersey's historic canals, the Delaware and Raritan and Morris. She has served as secretary of the Canal Society of New Jersey. Working with her husband, she planned weekend and ten-day trips to canal sites in Virginia, New England, Ohio, and Pennsylvania and has toured canals in England, France, Scotland, and the Netherlands. She currently serves as the president of the Delaware & Raritan Canal Watch, a friends group that supports the Canal State Park.

Reminiscent of the Methodist circuit riders of yore, Linda and her husband Bob have traveled the state spreading the good news of New Jersey history through presentations and popular publications. She regularly presents to libraries and historical societies around the state, speaking on a variety of New Jersey topics. She has written extensively about New Jersey

history, especially New Jersey's canals, inventions, her hometown—Somerville, and the Millstone Valley. Barth is also the author of several children books, including *Hidden New Jersey*.

Barth enriches our understanding of New Jersey past and in addition to her writing and presenting, she is a powerful advocate for New Jersey history. She has served as the executive director of the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, is on the boards of the Millstone Valley Preservation Coalition, the Heritage Trail Association, and the Advocates for New Jersey History. She is a member of the Washington Association of New Jersey and recently founded the Somerville History Roundtable. She is also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

#### Todd W. Braisted

For over two decades Todd Braisted has succeeded in raising public awareness of the Loyalists and the Patriots using primary sources. He is motivated and passionate to seek those primary source accounts that bring people and their lives to life in the events and aftermath. He has broadened his own knowledge of his Loyalist ancestors which first sparked his interest around our Bicentennial. Braisted felt that there was not enough history offered on the Loyalists. His work has been presented in a variety of ways which include publishing, presentations, broadcast media, and he was an early adaptor of internet-based publishing.

As a scholar and educator he has been recognized internationally for his research and has brought new information and understanding. His efforts at bringing information contained in British and Canadian archives have brought appreciation for much of the activity in New Jersey and beyond. Braisted has been repeatedly selected to lecture at many of the National Endowment for the Humanities Teachers Programs at Fort Ticonderoga. As the creator of Royalprovincial.com, the leading website on Loyalist military studies, he has made his research broadly accessible. In addition to his own website he has been a contributing author to popular websites like All Things Liberty, Crossroads of the American Revolution, and Turn to a Historian. By working in new media he has encouraged a new, younger audience to follow the strategic impact of the Loyalists and Patriots.

His most recent publication, *A Nest of Tories*, was prepared for the American Battlefield Protection Program of the National Park Service, and the Borough of Fort Lee. It delves into another aspect of the role of militia and the relationship to defending British logistical forays late in the war. A compilation of maps, muster rolls, damage inventories, letters, military orders, pension applications, and Loyalist resettlement inventories all provide a comprehensive view of the people who fought, what is believed to be, the most sustained land battle of the war in Bergen County.

#### Andrea Tingey

State employees simply doing their job are frequently overlooked when accolades are in order. Andrea Tingey is a principal historic preservation specialist at the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office. There is more than one way for an employee to meet their job description and Tingey goes way above the call of duty in helping the public and her peers every day. She does not just answer a question with the information she already knows, she will become invested in the question and help locate the answers. Recently a patron was researching a Hungarian Church with modern artwork and in a few days Tingey provided a list of potential sources complete with quotes and said "it was an interesting question so I did a little research." This is a typical response from Tingey who is the first to volunteer her time for the public good.

Tingey was instrumental in helping make *Down Jersey*, a vernacular architectural forum a smashing success. As someone who really cares about history and who is quick to enthusiastically embrace every preservation effort that challenges her, Tingey is the perfect example of a public employee whose steadfast efforts in the promotion of New Jersey's history deserve to be recognized.

#### Melissa Ziobro

Anyone who knows New Jersey history knows Professor Melissa Ziobro as the relentlessly upbeat, incredibly energetic editor of *New Jersey Studies*. She is certainly that, but much more. Ziobro is a born and bred New Jerseyan who received her B.A. in history and political science and her M.A. in United States history from Monmouth University. From 2004-2011 she worked as a historian at Fort Monmouth, beginning her tenure there as a student trainee and ending as a

supervisory historian. After the closure of Fort Monmouth she began a second career as specialist professor of public history at Monmouth University. In this position she has developed numerous new courses, advised the University on a wide variety of historical issues, and touched the lives of numerous students.

Although her work in the classroom is exemplary, her efforts beyond the classroom are commendable and noteworthy. Her passions are public and oral history. She regularly consults for leading New Jersey historical associations, most notably, she is a long-time consultant to and InfoAge Museum, she is a trustee of the Parker Farm 1665, and she has been a guest curator for the Monmouth County Archives and the Monmouth County Historical Association. Ziobro was also a guest curator for the Monmouth County Historical Association's Superstorm Sandy Exhibit, and for the Monmouth County Park System's restoration of Battery Lewis.

Ziobro serves as a board member of the Middle Atlantic Oral History Association and is a critical member of the New Jersey History Day team. Perhaps most significantly, she is the editor of *New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. She has had a transformative impact on the journal, broadening its scope, raising its profile, and establishing the journal as one of the foundational activities of the New Jersey Historical Commission.

She is the author of numerous articles and reviews, many focused on military history, her beloved Fort Monmouth, World War II, Gilded Age Princesses, oral history, and food history. She has also co-authored a textbook on American economic history with Walter Greason and Bill Gorman. She regularly presents at local and regional conferences and to historical groups across the state.

New Jersey history has benefited tremendously from the energy and enthusiasm of Professor Melissa Ziobro.

#### New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance

#### **New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Teaching Award**

**Robert Schulte** is the recipient of the 2018 New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Teaching Award. He teaches American History to high school students in Neptune, New Jersey. His classes focus on real life applications, civic involvement, primary sources, and incorporating technology such as virtual reality and 1:1 computing. Mr. Schulte graduated from Rider

University with a double major in history and secondary education and has earned many honors and awards for his teaching. He has attended a number of selective summer institutes including the George Washington Teacher Institute and he was certified a master teacher of the American Revolution by the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati this past summer. He also volunteers on the teacher advisory board of Harvard Universities Declaration Resource Project, and works summers and weekends as a National Park Ranger at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, providing formal and informal historical interpretation at sites such as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and Franklin Court.

Mr. Schulte's award recognizes the innovative nature of his teaching unit about federalism and the government response to the disaster of Hurricane Sandy in 2012. In his own words: "As a shore town in New Jersey, Neptune was an area that was severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy. Students here on the Jersey Shore see the personal connection and many have seen firsthand the impact of Federalism on the recovery of the shore, as some are just now moving back into homes rebuilt with the support of FEMA. [This unit] use[s] the natural disaster of Hurricane Sandy to teach students about Federalism and how the different levels of government respond during a natural disaster. Students . . . apply what they have learned by attempting to solve (or at least survive) a scenario where a zombie apocalypse has come to New Jersey! The lesson is intended for students at the high school level, but can easily be modified for the middle school as well. Also, teachers can substitute any natural disaster that might face New Jersey to replace the zombie scenario if they are so inclined."

#### **Paul A. Stelhorn Undergraduate Paper Award**

**Caleb Dagnall** received a B.A. in history honors from Kean University in May of this year and he is employed as a social studies teacher at the Plainfield High School, Plainfield, New Jersey. He teaches grades 9 to 12 World History, and US History I and II. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi, and Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, as well as being a William Livingston Scholarship recipient. His other activities include extensive experience in theater as a technical director (primarily in lighting design and sound design), service as a National History Day judge at the regional, state, and national levels, and a variety of technical and educational responsibilities for Calvary Community Church of East Millstone, New Jersey.

**E. Rosie Driscoll** received a BA, magna cum laude, in history and women's gender and sexuality studies in May 2018, and received the Dean's Award for Excellence in history in 2017. Her thesis, *Without the Least Provision': Black and Desegregationist Resistance to Systemic Racial Discrimination in Private and Public Housing in Trenton, New Jersey, 1938-1965* has been selected for the Stelhorn Award. She is a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the history honor society, and Iota Iota Iota, the women's and gender studies honor society. While a student she gained professional experience as a district office intern in Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman's office, as a legislative and constituent services intern in the 11th legislative district assembly office, and as a public affairs intern for the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey. She is employed as a public affairs manager of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey.