Summer 2005

Summertime Activities

North East

Driving north from Princeton on Route 206 will soon bring you to the Montgomery Cinema complex where some of the more unusual films are shown. If, on the other hand, you drive along Nassau Street and north on Route 27 towards Kingston, you will come to Rockingham House, which is well worth a visit: (609) 921-8835, open Wednesday - Saturday 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are welcomed. In Kingston, turn left onto Laurel Avenue (Route 603) at the corner with Main Street Bakery and Coffeehouse. The site is one mile down on the left. Rockingham House, which has been carefully restored, was rented by George Washington for three and a half months in 1783. He used it as his war headquarters, and in it he received the news that the Treaty of Paris had been signed on September 3, 1783. He gave his Farewell Orders to the United States Armies, announced his retirement from public life and returned to Mt. Vernon. (This withdrawal was not to last, and in 1788 Washington was elected as the first President of the United States and re-elected for a second term in 1792.)

The actual house has been moved three times to reach its present location, as it was threatened by the expansion of a nearby rock quarry. The site has a kitchen garden in 18th century style and there are plans for an orchard and for the restoration of some barns to create the whole farm as it would have been in Washington’s era.

If you stop in Kingston you can visit the canal lock keeper’s little house, view the lock, walk along the canal, admire the old mill and have a good lunch up the hill at Main Street Bakery and Coffeehouse, 56 Main Street, Kingston.

North West

We can’t stop thinking of you!

Here are some thoughts for your summer, which we have organized by region. (Please see map on back page for locations.) In each area you will probably find many more things that may be of interest to you and your family – let us know. We just wanted to give you some ideas to get you started. Remember to always check the local, free weekly Town Topics (copies can be found in the laundry room). Previous issues of TatI, which can be obtained from the AMIAS website, also have valuable links to activities. If you’ve seen it all, done everything, please don’t be bored – share your experiences with your fellow families and let us publish your impressions. Enjoy your trips and take a lot of water with you especially when traveling with little children in a car, since New Jersey summers can get really hot!

Your TatI team.

You may have visited Terhune Orchards just outside of Princeton (www.terhuneorchards.com) already, but if you enjoy nature walks you don’t want to stop there. The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed (www.thewatershed.org) in Pennington offers very well-kept, informative walks, enjoyable for the whole family.

If you are interested in trains, dolls and everything in miniature, you should head out to Nordlandz to see the Great American Railway, Doll Museum and Art Gallery, near Flemington (www.northlandz.com). Flemington has a lot to offer, too. (Check out the website www.flemington-nj.com.) Once you have made it that far, we also recommend Clinton (www.clintonnj.com). No, we are not into politics now! Clinton is a really pretty, little village with the lovely, old Red Mill, housing the Hunterdon Historical Museum, other old houses and live historical enactments.

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### Summertime Activities

#### West

About nine miles from the Institute are Washington Crossing State Park, located on the New Jersey side of the Delaware River, and the Washington Crossing His- toric Park, located on the Pennsylvania side of the river. These two parks - con- nected by the Lambertville Bridge - consist of 1,300 acres with wooded trails for hiking, biking and horseback rid- ing, picnic areas, many historic buildings, and beautiful views of the Delaware River. This area played a crucial role in the Revolu- tionary War when General George Wash- ington and his Continental Army, 2,400 crossed the Delaware on Christmas night 1776 and then marched to Trenton. There they engaged in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, where the battles often called "the turning point of the Revolution."  

From Wednesday through Sunday outdoor education programs are offered for (609) 737-6909.  

Another part of the Historic Park, a few miles north, is King of Prussia, a loophole and signal point for the American Army during the Revolutionary War. In 1730, a 110’ high stone watchtower was built to mark the hill’s celebrated role. Nearby is the 100-acre Bowman’s Hill Wildlife Pre- serve, a sanctuary for Pennsylvania native plants.  

On the New Jersey side, is the Wash- ington Crossing Open Air Theater that seats over 1,000 people and is the "largest and longest established community theatre of its kind on the East Coast." In 2005 season of music and drama begins on June 9 with Much Ado About Nothing. (For perfor- mances and tickets, please see www.princetoncollegroup.org.)  

Further "up the Delaware River" lie the historic towns of Lambertville, New Jer- sey, and New Hope, Pennsylvania, located across the river from each other and con- nected by the Lambertville Bridge. The area is well known for its antique shops and flea markets, bed and breakfasts and coun- try inns, restaurants, shopping and river activities. The Lambertville Station, a res- taurant in a restored 19th century train sta- tion, now allows guests a view of the river while dining. New Hope is home to the Bucks County Playhouse, open since 1939, and a branch of the James A. Mich- ener Art Museum, featuring Pennsylvania impressionist paintings and other contem- porary and historic artists from the New Hope area. There is a multi-media, interac- tive exhibit - including a video theater - of the many visual artists, authors, play- writers, lyricists and composers who have lived and worked in Bucks County. (See www.michenermuseum.org for information on both the museum’s New Hope and Delaware Locations.)  

In the New Hope-Lambertville area, and elsewhere along the Delaware River and canal, there are many opportunities for wa- ter activities such as canoeing, rafting, tubing and riding on a mule barge. Because there are so many choices, rather than list only a few options, we suggest you search the web under subjects such as Delaware River tubing, Delaware River rafting, and New Hope barge, so that you can choose for yourself the best guided trips, types and lengths of trips, departure and pick up points, cost.  

Whether it is tubing on the Delaware, walking the historical trails or canvassing the perfect antique, a 1/2 hour ride car from the Institute will allow you to experience some of the best that New Jersey and Pennsylvania have to offer.  

#### South West

In addition to the Trenton Farmer’s Market, which we mentioned in the April/ May edition of Taf, located close to Route 1 in Trenton, you may want to visit Trenton’s beautiful Planetarium (www.state.nj.us/planetarium) close to the State Museum (609) 522-2929.  

Have you heard of The Old Barracks Museum (www.barracks.org)?  

And, for sports fans, you might be inter- ested to know that Trenton is home of the New Jersey Pine Barrens Barstow Village. This is a "company" town at the head of the Ranco- cas Creek, in what is now more than 3,000 acres of protected pine forests, cranberry bogs, blueberry fields and wetlands and reservoirs. Barstow was once the main settlement for the largest cranberry farm in New Jersey and, in 1915, gained national attention when the first cultivated blueberry was successfully developed there. See www.whitebog.org for details of events, including the annual Blueberry Festival, scheduled this year for Saturday, June 25.

#### Princeton

For those of you without a car, but possi- bly with children, there are still lots of things to do in the Princeton Area. Some of these suggestions for local activities - and others not listed in this article - are more fully described in earlier issues of Times at the Institute. You can find back issues on line by clicking on the AMIAS link.  

### Summertime Activities

#### South West

There are 10 miles of undeveloped coastal sand dunes, white sandy beaches, freshwater wetlands, maritime forests and tidal marshes that provide a haven for the State’s largest osprey colony, as well as peregrine falcons, wading birds, shorebirds, waterfowl and migrating songbirds. Natura- lists lead interpretive tours by foot, kayak and canoe. Activities include fishing, swimming, bird watching, scuba diving. Parking spaces limit the num- ber of people allowed into the park during the summer. This means you should get there early on a hot day – especially on Sat- urday or Sunday – but it also means it won’t be as crowded as other Jersey beaches. See the listing for Island Beach State Park under "things to do in the area" for more information. For a virtual tour go to www.state.nj.us/travel/virtual/islandbeach/  

#### South and South East

#### Down the shore

You may have walked the boardwalk, played miniature golf and other seaside games, eaten fudge and fried clams, strolled the Victorian town of Cape May, but don’t neglect to visit the “Jersey shore” the way it used to be. One of the few remaining rem- nants of the barrier island ecosystem that once existed along much of the north Atlan- tic coast can be found at Island Beach State Park. For information, contact the Princeton University Campus 500 miles of unpaved roads. (See www.batstovillage.org.)

### The Nassau Swim Club, an outdoor pool located off the gravel road near the von Neumann apartments, is a cooperative swim club located on land owned by Princeton University. Membership is extended to members of the Institute Community. Nas- sau offers free swim lessons for children, a baby pool, a liberal guest policy, games and parties. The Nassau Swim Club is open from the end of May to the beginning of September. For more information, see www.nassauswimclub.org or call Stephanie Greenberg at (609) 683-4422.

#### The Community Park Pool Complex consists of a 50-meter swimming pool, wad- ing pool, diving well, snack bar, picnic ar- eas, lockers, changing facilities and chil- dren's play area. A variety of aquatic pro- grams is offered, including instruc- tion in swimming, diving, life-saving and competitive swim teams with local youth. The pool is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day (seven days a week beginning June 15). Member- ship for the season is available to Princeton residents, and there is daily admission as well. For information, contact the Princeton Recreation Department, 388 Witherspoon Street, Princeton, (609) 924-7100, or www.princetonrec.com.