



Book Lovers Dispatch

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Revolutionary Detective Focuses on New Jersey

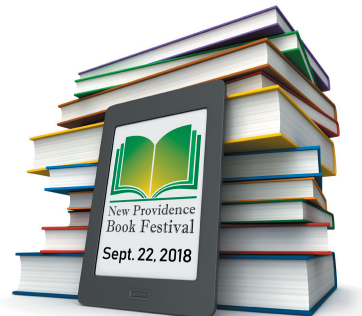


Photo by J.R. Bale

Author and historian Bob Mayers is known as the “Revolutionary Detective” and for good reason. What began decades ago as a mild curiosity about an ancestor evolved into a fulltime pursuit of Revolutionary War history. While this may seem like a field that has been exhausted over the last two centuries, Bob has uncovered treasure troves of overlooked information. Some of his sources include pension records for Continental veterans. Letters from British, French and German soldiers were also particularly useful. (Continued on page 2.)

New Providence Book Festival

On **Saturday, September 22, 2018**, 9 am to 3pm, the Salt Box Museum will host, on its grounds, the New Providence Book Festival. Over a dozen New Jersey authors, across various genres, will be on hand to discuss and sign their books. There will be a raffle as well. All are invited to come to this cultural event. Refreshments will be available. The Salt Box Museum will be open to all visitors free of charge. The rain date is September 29th. Learn more at www.newprovidencebookfestival.com.



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The Power of Your Book Review

In the old days, major publishing houses would select authors, nurture them and use their enormous PR and marketing machines to promote the heck out of their books. Bookstore shelves were filled. Discerning readers would peruse *The New York Times* book reviews.

However, the democratizing forces of print-on-demand and ebooks have divided the industry. The major publishing houses have cut back on taking chances on new authors. They stick to their tried and true authors, the same way film studios are addicted to sequels.

Many great books began as self-published. One example is Andy Weir's *The Martian*, self-published in 2011 and picked up by Crown three years later, but only after readers gave it great reviews on Amazon. This is the result of a new reader democracy, where readers vote through their purchases and reviews.

Reviews are important for another reason. Democracy is messy. Print-on-demand and ebook technologies have removed the entry barriers to publishing. They have also removed the editorial process. It would be disingenuous to say that every independently published book is a masterpiece waiting to be discovered. Consumer reviews are the mechanism that replaces the editorial process. As a part of their search behavior, online book buyers check reviews carefully, whereas in-store buyers rarely check reviews. This underscores the need and power of reader reviews, whether on Amazon, Goodreads or some other platform. If you love a book, let the world know.

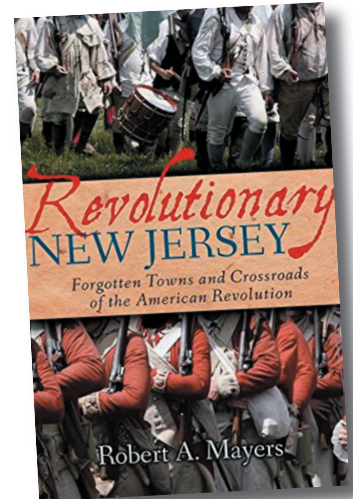
Revolutionary Detective (Continued from page 1)

"Unlike our Patriot soldiers," Mayers explains, "foreign soldiers found America more exotic, certainly something to write home about." This was useful for his latest book, *Revolutionary New Jersey*, which focuses on activities in New Jersey.

"Washington and his troops spent more time in New Jersey than any other state," Mayers says. "So it's worthy of our attention."

His research has even created some controversy. He claims to have discovered another Washington Rock at the Middlebrook Campground, where General Washington spent more time observing British troops 30 miles away at Sandy Hook than he did at the traditionally recognized site in Greenbrook, NJ.

Using a sketch from the 1800s, Mayers traipsed the countryside and discovered the site in Martinsville. While many people may be indifferent, this has created a controversy in the Revolutionary War historical community. Bob's books are all available on Amazon. Learn more at RevolutionaryDetective.com.



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Book Temples: Celebrating Books at Festivals

As indicated by the title of this newsletter, we love books and places where books are honored, even worshipped, whether they are libraries, bookstores or book groups, but especially book festivals. Morristown and Collingswood are especially known for their book festivals. However, there are also smaller festivals, such as the New Providence Book Festival on Saturday, September 22, 2018. Hosted by the New Providence Historical Society on the grounds of their Salt Box Museum at 1350 Springfield Avenue in New Providence, New Jersey, over a dozen authors will sign books, talk to readers and perform readings.

Scheduled authors include J.R. Bale, Linda Barth, Michael Stephen Daigle, Reyna Favis, Vivian Fransen, Kristina Garlick, Laura Kaighn, Bob Mayers, Brian McKinly, Ginger Pate, Bill Powers, Linda Raedisch, Amy M. Reade and others. Some of these authors are new to the festival. Others are familiar names bringing their newest works. Either way, it's going to be an exciting festival. The festival is sponsored by Lantern Hill, Murray Hill Hotel & Suites, Moe's Bistro and other sponsors. Learn more at www.NewProvidenceBookFestival.com.



Upcoming Book Events

September 8 & 9, 2018

Belvidere Victorian Days - Authors Grove

Belvidere, NJ

www.belvidereheritage.com

September 22, 2018

Saturday, 9am - 3pm

New Providence Book Festival

Salt Box Museum, New Providence, NJ

www.newprovidencebookfestival.com

October 6, 2018

Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Collingswood Book Festival

Collingswood, NJ

www.collingswoodbookfestival.com

October 12 & 13, 2018

Friday, 7:30pm

Saturday, 10am - 5pm

Morristown Festival of Books

Morristown, NJ

www.morristownbooks.org

October 13, 2018

Saturday, 1 - 3pm

10am - 4pm

Indie Author Day

Springfield Library, Springfield, NJ

www.sfplnj.org

Margaret E. Heggan Public Library, Sewell, NJ

www.hegganlibrary.org

October 13 & 14, 2018

Saturday & Sunday

Bucks County BookFest

Doylestown, PA

www.bucksbookfest.org

Additional events are listed at www.bookloversdispatch/book-events

**Indie
AUTHOR DAY**

On October 13, 2018, many libraries across America will celebrate independently published books of many genres with author readings, talks and signings. While many local events are listed at indieauthorday.com, some are not. So check to see if your local library is hosting an event.



*"Hey, make mine a double!
I finally finished my
Summer Reading List."*

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Recent Book Releases

The Straight Spouse: A Memoir

This memoir is a love story about a woman who is married to a man who turns out to be gay—and how she deals with it in unexpected ways. This story takes place in the early 1990s, and she believes she is the only woman in the world to face this unthinkable threat to her marriage. Her journey—sometimes disturbing, sometimes uplifting—is all about the importance of letting go and finding one’s own way through hard times. Learn more at straightspousememoir.com.

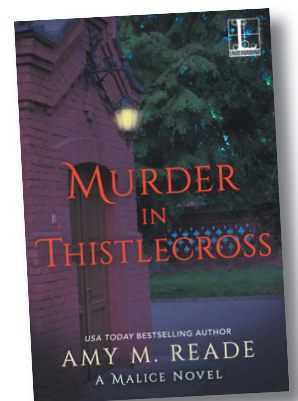


Cognition Chronicles: The Redstone Legacy

Can a soul be duplicated? Can one man’s madness save civilization? Can an artificial intelligence have a heart? These are not the questions one usually asks, but the answers may determine the final outcome for the human race. Learn more at jrbale.com.

Murder in Thistlecross

The emerald hills and violet valleys of Wales seem the ideal place to start over after murder—and divorce—shattered Eilidh’s life in the Scottish Highlands. But within the stone walls of an ancient castle, a family’s dark, violent past threatens much more than her newfound tranquility. Learn more at amymreade.com.



Soul Scent

Troubled psychic Fia leads a double life. As a ground pounder for Search And Rescue, she finds the lost and vulnerable living and brings them to safety. As a servant to an ancient and indifferent Psychopomp, her mission is no less crucial—to help the suffering dead cross over to the afterlife. Her worlds collide after a distraught woman with a gun disappears into the woods and the rescue becomes a body recovery. Learn more at reynafavis.com.

Goldenfire

Goldenfire is the power within the Ark of the Covenant. Does it exist? Can it be found? Historian Christa Devlin and FBI Special Agent Braydon Fox race to find the answers, chasing the history of the Ark through France, Scotland, and mountains once ruled by the Incas. They follow a perilous trail twisting and turning with enigmatic symbols, legends of the Knights Templar and a centuries-old map. However, a mastermind is determined to find the Goldenfire first and unleash it as a weapon, joining its lethal ancient power with his high-tech drones. Learn more at pamelahegarty.com.

