

# *Raising the BAR(N)*



During the winter of 1778-79, the Jacobus Vanderveer House was the home and headquarters of General Henry Knox, who commanded a military training academy in Pluckemin. The 1772 Dutch-Colonial home is the only surviving structure associated with the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment, considered America's first military training academy and a precursor to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Since 1998, The nonprofit Friends of the Jacobus Vanderveer House have restored, developed and operated the Vanderveer property – significant in United States Revolutionary War military history – as a nationally important historic site and an educational and community resource.

## ***The Facts:***

- Attendance at events and programs held at the Vanderveer House has grown 82% over the past 3 years (from 1,629 onsite visitors in 2014 to 2,967 onsite visitors in 2016). The number of school-aged children, visiting the Vanderveer House, has increased three-fold in that same period (from 367 to nearly 1,100).
- Public event space within the 1772 home is limited to a maximum capacity of 35 people and is located up a steep flight of stairs (making accessibility difficult for some visitors).
- Thousands of important Revolutionary War artifacts were excavated during the Pluckemin Archaeology Dig (1981-89) at the site of the Pluckemin Cantonment. These artifacts and their related documentation are currently being housed in a warehouse facility in Central New Jersey. They have never been seen by the community in which they were found, nor studied by a community of scholars.

## ***The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch Barn will:***

- Provide much-needed, accessible space for the growing number of children and adults interested in learning more about our nation's history through our educational programming.
- Provide a secure, permanent exhibition space for Revolutionary War artifacts, where they will be available for interpretation by the nationwide community of American History scholars.
- Further the study of the Pluckemin Artillery Cantonment of 1778-79 and its significance to our nation's history (an area of history that has been poorly interpreted and rarely examined for the past two centuries).
- Preserve Somerset County's Dutch-Colonial heritage.
- Create a unique venue for public, private and corporate events that will help financially sustain the historic property's future maintenance and operational costs.

## ***The Project Cost:***

Approximately \$1.7 million to construct a foundation, reassemble and repair the historic frame and enclose the barn with new siding, stress skin paneling, a roof, windows and doors, as well as complete finishes and building systems. Additions will house a small catering kitchen, accessible rest rooms, and a coat room. The proposed farmstead will also include a barnyard, kitchen garden and outbuildings such as a hay barrack, privy and smokehouse. To date, approximately \$200,00 has been raised toward the \$1.7 million goal.