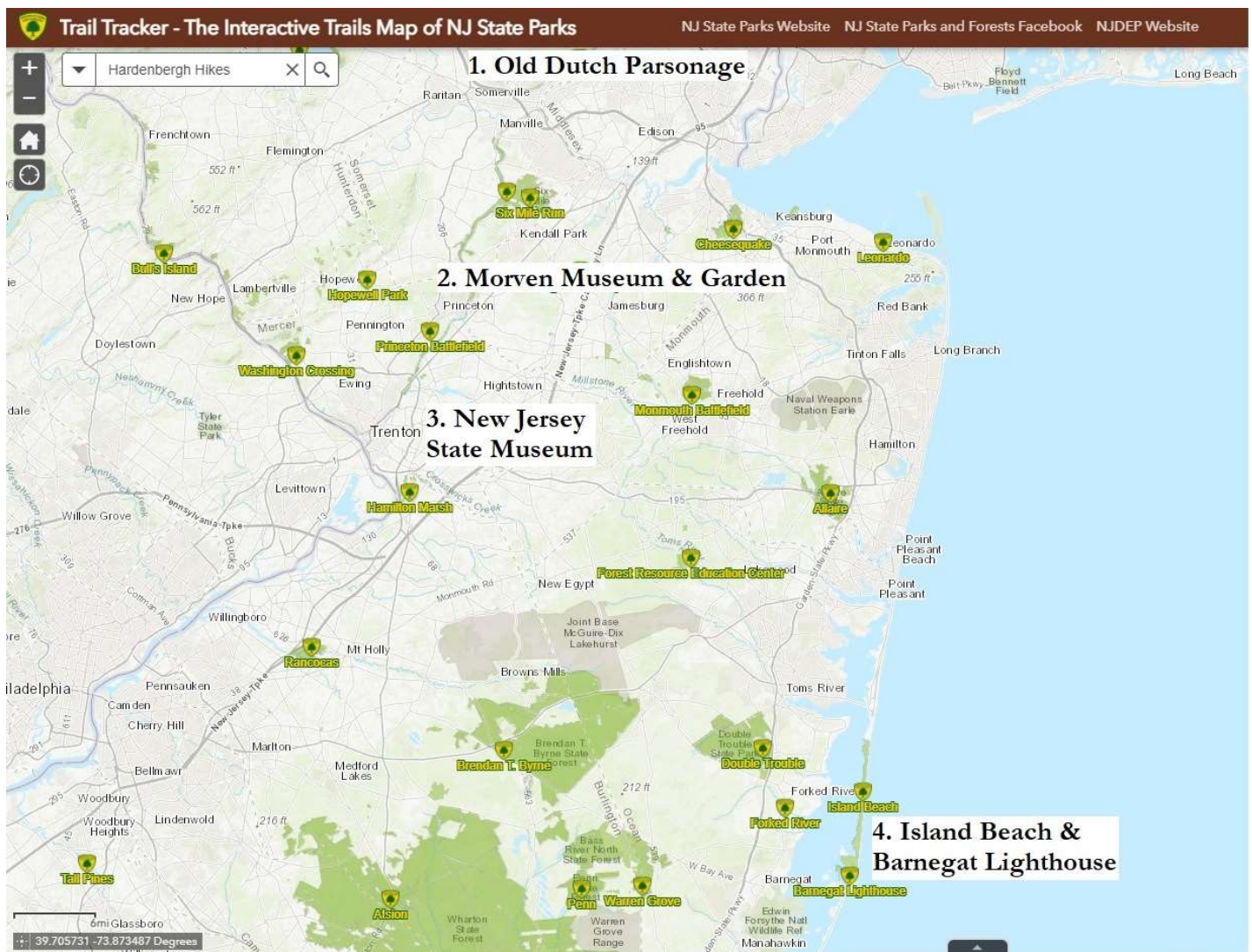


## Hardenbergh Hikes

Hike through art, nature, and history with New Jersey's artist and ornithologist Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh. Journey from the Dutch roots of Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in the eighteenth century to the emerging fields of science and conservation at Princeton University in the nineteenth century all the way through to the Department of Environmental Protection's ongoing efforts to preserve the natural landscapes and wildlife of the Jersey Shore today.



### 1. Old Dutch in New Jersey

Wallace House & Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Sites:

<https://www.niparksandforests.org/historic/olddutch-wallace/odwh-home.htm>

71 Somerset Street, Somerville, NJ 08876

Artist and ornithologist Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh was the great-great-grandson of Dinah Van Bergh and Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh who lived here at Old Dutch Parsonage State Historic Site.



Dinah Van Bergh was born overseas in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Dinah belonged to the pietist movement in eighteenth-century Europe, applying a strict Calvinist ethic to the practice of her faith in the Dutch Reformed Church. Lore suggests Dinah as a young girl eschewed dancing lessons and admonished her father for playing card games with his friends. History confirms Dinah's commitment to her beliefs in her diary which survives in two volumes at Rutgers Special Collections and University Archives and New Brunswick Theological Seminary's Gardner A. Sage Library:

<https://sinclairnj.blogs.rutgers.edu/tag/dinah-van-bergh-hardenbergh/>

In 1750 Johannes Frelinghuysen, son of a prominent Great Awakening preacher in New Jersey, crossed the Atlantic Ocean to receive his license to preach from the Classis of Amsterdam, the governing body for the Dutch Reformed Church. In Amsterdam, Rev. Frelinghuysen met and proposed to marry Dinah Van Bergh. Dinah's written reflections on this proposal express her hesitancy to accept not only the life of a minister's wife but also emigration from her Dutch home to a British colony but eventually Dinah accepted the opportunity as a call from God for her to minister in a foreign land.



*Dinah Van Bergh's dress*

RUTGERS SPECIAL COLLECTIONS & UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Newlyweds Johannes and Dinah Frelinghuysen moved into Old Dutch Parsonage as the home's first residents when they arrived in New Jersey together in 1751. Several congregations of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Jersey's Raritan River Valley built this house to accommodate the minister who traveled from here among their various churches. Dinah gave birth to two children, Frederick and Eva, while her husband invited young men to board and study in the house in preparation for ministry in the Dutch Reformed Church. Among Rev. Frelinghuysen's students was Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh, a Dutch New Yorker from Rosendale in Ulster County in the Hudson River Valley.

Following Rev. Frelinghuysen's death in 1754, Dinah prepared for a return to the Netherlands until her late husband's former student Jacob Hardenbergh proposed to marry her. Dinah accepted a second marriage, and Jacob proceeded to take over his former tutor's duties as resident minister at Old Dutch Parsonage. Splitting their time between this house in New Jersey and Rev. Hardenbergh's home in New York, Dinah Hardenbergh gave birth to several more children including another Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh who would be the artist and ornithologist Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh's great-grandfather.

Rev. Hardenbergh sought to transform the informal seminary he had attended under Rev. Frelinghuysen into a full-fledged college for the Dutch in New Jersey. The colony was already home to the College of New Jersey chartered in 1746 under the leadership of Scottish Presbyterians and relocated in 1756 to Nassau Hall in Princeton. In 1766 the colony chartered Queen's College as a second college for the Dutch in New Jersey. Five years later Dinah's son Frederick Frelinghuysen served as the first tutor for Queen's College, teaching at the Sign of the Red Lion Tavern in New Brunswick following the completion of his own education at Princeton.

The Revolutionary War broke out and Frederick Frelinghuysen and Rev. Hardenbergh served in New Jersey's Provincial Congress at Burlington. The Provincial Congress instructed New Jersey's delegates to the Continental Congress at Philadelphia to support American independence on June 22, 1776 and then adopted New Jersey's first Constitution on July 2, 1776, two days before the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. Frederick Frelinghuysen entered the Continental Army as an officer and Jacob and Dinah Hardenbergh were neighbors to George and Martha Washington when the Commander-in-Chief made winter headquarters at the nearby Wallace House during the Middlebrook Cantonment from December 1778 through June 1779.



*Rev. Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh*

Following the Revolutionary War, Rev. Hardenbergh served as the first president of Queen's College. In 1785 Jacob and Dinah moved to New Brunswick to shepherd the emerging Dutch college and minister to the Dutch Reformed Church there. Dinah remained involved with Queen's College following her second husband's death in 1790, writing a letter to a minister in New York attempting to recruit him as the college's next president.

Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh grew up in the footsteps of his great-great-grandparents Jacob and Dinah Hardenbergh in New Brunswick. By the time of his birth, however, the Dutch college his paternal great-great-grandparents had helped found bore a new name that Gerard inherited from his maternal family: Rutgers.



*Col. Henry Rutgers*

Born in New York, Henry Rutgers did not study at the Dutch Reformed college called Queen's but at the Anglican college called King's, today Columbia University in the City of New York. Indeed, he graduated King's College in 1766, the same year New Jersey granted the charter for Queen's College. Henry Rutgers entered the Continental Army when the Revolutionary War arrived in New York and served as a colonel. Later Col. Rutgers remained in public life, elected to the New York Assembly as a Jeffersonian Republican in 1800.

Col. Rutgers supported the cause of education in New York and New Jersey. In addition to serving as a regent of the State University of New York, Col. Rutgers was at times a trustee of the College of New Jersey and Queen's College. In 1825 a theology professor at Queen's College suggested renaming the college for Col. Rutgers, hoping to encourage the former trustee to make a major philanthropic gift. On November 30, 1825, the

Legislature of New Jersey authorized the new name Rutgers College. Col. Rutgers the next year in 1826 made a gift of \$200 to purchase a bell for the new college building which remains in the cupola of Old Queens at Rutgers – New Brunswick's College Avenue campus today and dedicated the interest on a \$5,000 bond to Rutgers College.



*Queen's College, today Old Queens, was constructed from 1809 to 1825.*

### 2. In Nature's Realm: The Art of Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh

Morven Museum & Garden: <https://www.morven.org/in-natures-realm>

55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540

Exhibition runs through **January 9, 2022.**

In line with its mission of celebrating the art of New Jersey, Morven Museum & Garden is proud to present the first exhibition examining the work of Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh (1856–1915). Born in New Brunswick, the great-great-grandson of Reverend Jacob Rutsen Hardenbergh (1736–1790), the first president of Queens College (Rutgers University), Hardenbergh was a self-taught artist and ornithologist. As a young man he spent time at Chadwick House, the Jersey Shore’s most famous sporting club located just south of present-day Mantoloking. His early love of wildlife became a lifelong passion for the study of birds. Splitting his time between New Brunswick and the Jersey Shore, Hardenbergh collected and preserved shore birds, sending important specimens to the Biology Department at Princeton University.



Intertwined with his interest in the young field of ornithology was his development as an artist. At the age of eighteen, Hardenbergh’s paintings were exhibited at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia where he was praised as “a careful and accurate ornithologist and prominent artist.” His works were scientifically accurate and popular, one newspaper later described Hardenbergh as “...a student whose books have been the woods and whose mentor Dame Nature herself...” With a studio on board his houseboat *Pelican*, which he moored around Bay Head, Hardenbergh became an eccentric fixture along the Jersey Shore.

Morven’s five-gallery exhibition also presents the commercial work done by Hardenbergh, including designs for porcelain, chromolithographs, and his unique games and charts published by Charles Scribner’s Sons. From the untouched land surrounding Barnegat Bay and the diverse wildlife that called it home, to the picturesque steeples and meadows around New Brunswick, Hardenbergh’s work provides a special glimpse into the Garden State on the brink of rapid development.

To learn more about Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh’s art, consult Patricia H. Burke’s book *Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh: Artist and Ornithologist*:

<https://www.morven.org/online-shop/gerard-rutgers-hardenbergh-artist-and-oronthologist>

### 3. Fine-Feathered Friends: Birds as Mainstay and Muse

New Jersey State Museum: <https://nj.gov/state/museum/>

205 West State Street, Trenton

Exhibition runs through **March 6, 2022.**

Birds are everywhere. They occupy our forests, farms, parks, beaches, backyards and even our homes. It's no wonder that they have achieved substantial cultural significance.



Birds have been around for a long time. So long that they actually evolved from dinosaurs 160 million years ago. Today, birds are important to humankind. They keep our environment healthy. They pollinate plants, distribute seeds and eat harmful insects. They are a food source for people around the world. Birds are also an important environmental predictor. When bird populations decline, scientists know that something is wrong. This warning gives humans time to analyze the problem and make changes, hopefully before it is too late. Birds have graceful movements, brilliant colors and sweet sounds. They bring beauty to the world in which we live. Life is better with birds.

Birds have always been a source of creative inspiration for artists. A bird appears in one of the earliest art canvases – the cave paintings at Lascaux, France (15,000 BCE). Birds adorn pre-Columbian statues, Roman mosaics, and nineteenth century naturalistic paintings. This exhibition combines New Jersey decorative arts inspired by our fine feathered friends, natural history taxidermy mounts and study skins. Together, these cultural and scientific artifacts provide a unique window into the wild, wonderful world of birds.



Explore the artworks and artifacts from this exhibition online in the virtual exhibit:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/njstatemuseum/collections/72157714167946541/>

Learn about special topics in the exhibition in a series of video discussions with the curator:

<https://nj.gov/state/museum/virtual-feathered-friends.shtml>



### 4. Down the Shore: State Parks on Barnegat Bay

**Island Beach State Park:** <https://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/islandbeachstatepark.html>

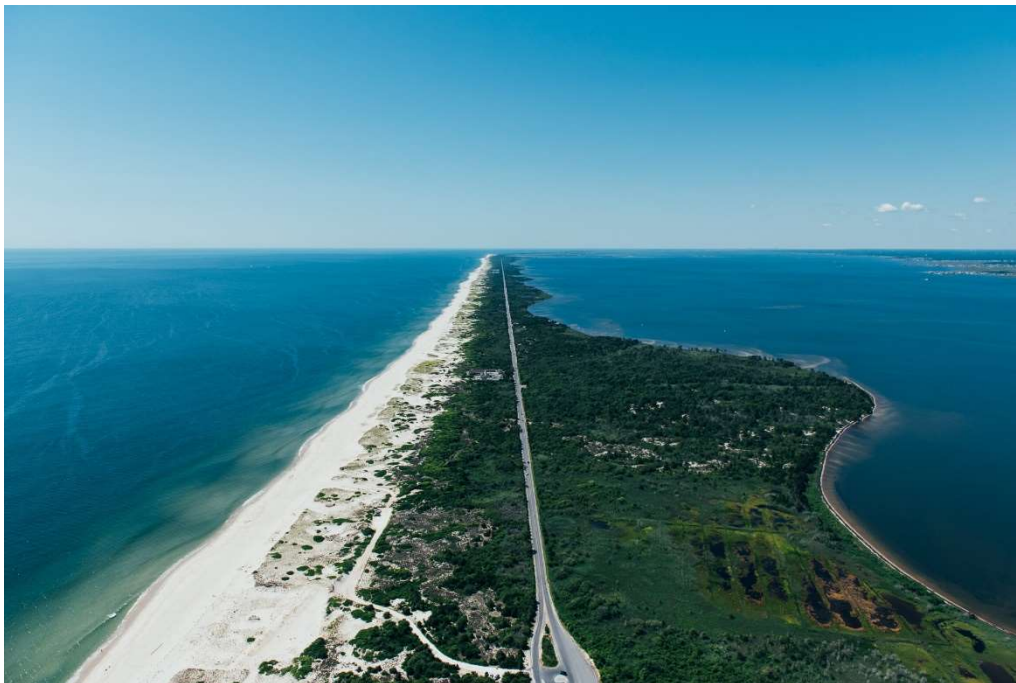
2401 Central Ave., Seaside Park, NJ 08752

**Barnegat Lighthouse State Park:**

<https://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/barnegatlighthousestatepark.html>

208 Broadway, Barnegat Light, NJ 08006

Barnegat Bay bears a name that recalls the Dutch sailors aboard Henry Hudson's ship *The Half Moon* when they first explored these waters in 1609. To this bay in the coastal region of Lenapehoking, the homeland of the Lenape, the Dutch gave the name "Barendegat" meaning breakers. The Dutch name morphed by the eighteenth century into "Barnegat" and that name remains today.



Three centuries later Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh, a descendant of New Jersey's Dutch colonists, found the greatest inspiration for his art and ornithology in the landscapes and wildlife of Barnegat Bay. The Division of Parks and Forestry preserves and interprets Island Beach and Barnegat Lighthouse State Parks on Barnegat Bay while the Division of Fish and Wildlife leads exciting efforts to restore the populations of birds Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh saw here at the turn of the twentieth century.



Island Beach State Park's oceanfront swimming areas are well-known and well-used every summer, but careful visitors can find on the bayside a less-explored system of trails leading to Barnegat Bay. Follow these trails to see the natural ecosystem of the Jersey Shore's barrier island and look for the variety of birds Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh depicted in his art:

[https://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/maps/ibsp\\_final.pdf](https://www.njparksandforests.org/parks/maps/ibsp_final.pdf)

Barnegat Lighthouse State Park preserves the iconic lighthouse, but a walk down the Maritime Forest Trail further rewards visitors with another rare glimpse of the plants and animals of the Jersey Shore in their natural habitat:

<https://www.njparksandforests.org/maps/barnegat-area.pdf>



Annually Barnegat Lighthouse State Park is a haven for beach-nesting birds including piping plover, ensuring future generations will enjoy the birds of the Jersey Shore not only in the artworks of Gerard Rutgers Hardenbergh but also in their living habitat down the shore. The Division of Fish & Wildlife works with Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey and additional partners to build and protect this habitat at Barnegat Lighthouse State Park through the Barnegat Light Restoration Project:

<https://youtu.be/h8Dd9oeXb-0>