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## Historian to Illustrate How Railroads Transformed Hudson County

In a nod to its transportation history, the well-known New Jersey historian John Cunningham once described Hudson County as “a hub of wheels.” On Saturday, October 9, at 11 am, Thomas Flagg will provide an illustrated talk, “From Farm and Marsh to Cityscape: The Railroads Transformed Hudson County.” It examines the transportation mode that shaped this hub over the course of more than a century, and covers the major controversies over the railroads gaining rights to use the wetlands.

The talk will take place at Hudson County Community College Culinary Conference Center, 161 Newkirk Street, Jersey City. It is part of “Come Home to History,” a history fair that observes the founding of Bergen (now Jersey City), 350 years ago by the New Amsterdam colony led by Peter Stuyvesant. Additional talks on key moments in Hudson County history, exhibits by more than 30 organizations, children’s activities, antique appraisals, and a tour round out the program, from 10 am to 6 pm.

Thomas Flagg is an instructor in the Department of Vision Sciences, State University of New York College of Optometry. Since 1966, he has been researching the Port of New York/New Jersey and its transportation history and has provided historical documentation of industrial sites in connection with cultural resource surveys required by some construction projects. Flagg helped found the Rail Marine Information Group in 1993, and has contributed articles to its journal *Transfer*.

Flagg is also a member and past director of the Society for Industrial Archeology, and for many years has been the coordinator of the annual symposium of the local chapter of that Society. He is the author of *New York Harbor Railroad in Color* (2 volumes), published by Morning Sun Press.

Fair sponsors are Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise; Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and Tourism; City of Jersey City, Jerramiah T. Healy, Mayor; Jersey City Municipal Council; Jersey City Division of Cultural Affairs; Hudson County Community College; Hudson County History Advocates; and the Jersey City Historical Project.

See [www.hudsoncountynigenealogy.org/historyfair2010](http://www.hudsoncountynigenealogy.org/historyfair2010) for a complete schedule of the fair.

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