



Penelope Stout medallion by sculptor Don De Lue, 1970s

## More Than a Myth — In Appreciation of Penelope Stout

Wednesday, August 11, 2021

7:00 pm Internet Webinar via GoToMeeting

Presented by Jeanne Vloyanetes

Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/mclsPStout> to register for this event.

### Speaker:



**Jeanne M. Vloyanetes** joined the faculty at Brookdale Community College in 1983. For many years she served as a librarian providing reference services, research instruction, and collection

development in the areas of history, social sciences, the College Archives, and New Jerseyana. In 2016 she became a full-time member of Brookdale's history department teaching courses in both world civilizations and American civilization. Jeanne holds a Bachelor's degree in Classics from Douglass College, a Master's degree in library service from Rutgers University, and a Master's degree in history from Monmouth University. Her history interests are eclectic. During recent years she has researched the Long Walls of classical Athens and the Woodstock Music and Art Festival of 1969 for presentations and museum exhibits. As a Jersey girl, local history will always have a special place in her heart.

Penelope Stout is claimed as the "Mother of Monmouth" and the "Mother of Middletown." Her 17th century arrival and settlement in the New World is the stuff of legend – shipwrecked, attacked by Indians, saved by Indians, arrival in Dutch New Amsterdam, and finally the establishment of a new life in Middletown, N. J. with husband Richard Stout and fellow English settlers under the Monmouth Patent in 1665.

Over the generations, Penelope's story has gained mythic proportions. The details of the savage attack upon her by Native Americans and her miraculous survival followed by a thriving life are incredulous. How could Penelope survive being half-scalped and partially eviscerated along with serious injuries to her shoulder and arm? Did Penelope Stout really go on to bear ten children and live to the age of 110? Will historical evidence ever definitively prove or disprove these claims? Does it matter?

The Stout name bears witness to her progeny far beyond Middletown into other New Jersey and nationwide locations. Penelope's story as "mythistory" is a compelling one as we appreciate her role in the American enterprise.

Co-sponsored by Hopewell Valley Historical Society, The Hopewell Museum and the Hopewell Branch of the Mercer County Library.

