



Timepiece

Volume 46, Issue 2
April-May-June 2012

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Good Things in the Community	2
Curator's Corner	3
Did You Know: Memorial Day	4
Meeting Notes	5
Researching Family and Local History	6
Membership Form	7

President's Message—Alycia E. Rihacek

Buzz a Buzz a Buzz Buzz...

Spring is here! There is a great deal of buzzing going on...

The creative enthusiasm of our volunteers is outstanding. As we watch Eagle Scout Naheem Browne's landscaping plantings start to bloom, we were truly blessed that his project was the seed to reconnect the great legacy of the Boy Scout Troops with our organization. Prospective Eagle Scout candidates are knocking on our door! As the saying goes... need something done, the Scouts will do it and then some. Mr. Bob Sommers, who passed away in 2010, would be very proud!

Our call for assistance for Facility Funding in the last newsletter is proving to be beneficial. Karen Longo, Old Bridge Township and Board of Education grant writer, has taken up the challenge. She is assisting us in the application process for a NJ Cultural Trust Grant. If we qualify, we will be able to offset the cost for a new schoolhouse roof and the needed energy efficiency solutions for cutting our bills down in the long run. So let us keep our positive "good thoughts" going. Thank you to our members: Mary Sohor for making the connection, and Owen Henry and his crew for volunteering services and assisting in recommendations.

We are in full swing of township elementary school & scout troop tours. Pat Schuck & Jack Becker, our ever-gracious hosts, excel in educating the children of the township in the history of our little red schoolhouse. Thank You to Donna Kibbler, Director of Old Bridge Township Elementary Education, for working as a liaison with the elementary teachers in the township. Our Mission to pass on our history is in direct action here... If you live locally, would you like to volunteer some of your time? The children of the township are so eager to learn about their hometown... your stories can spark the interest for our next generation of historians.

Speaking of the next generation...

Our Children's Tea was a wonderful event. Linda McGovern's Doll display and talk was well received and very educational. All of our young visitors, including their dolls and teddy bears, had a great time. They had the choice of wearing one of Pat's festive vintage hats, did a fun craft project, and learned about the history of our organization, too. Thank you to the all the volunteers for scrumptious goodies, tea and hot cocoa. You made this a memorable event for all who attended, and we have many requests to do this again.

Tea with Mrs. Lincoln will be coming up April 14th. This event is Sold Out. Mrs. Mary Todd Lincoln and her bodyguard and Elmer Ellsworth Hager will be back for a visit. The Ladies of the Society are busy prepping for the big event.

MEETING CALENDAR

- *Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings: April 17th, May 15th, June 19th (picnic)*
- *Board of Directors Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings: April 9th, May 14th, June 11th*

**MADISON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

OFFICERS

President, Alycia E. Rihacek
 1st Vice-President, Patricia A. Schuck
 2nd Vice-President, Jack Becker
 Recording Secretary, Joan M. Beamish
 Corresponding Secretary, David Johns
 Treasurer, Richard J. Kujawinski

Director A, Leona Murphy
 Director B, Pauline Drake
 Director C, Carmela Barthine

Museum Curator,
 Kathleen M. Philbrick

Masthead image:
 Gingerbread Mantle Clock
 Connecticut origin, Steam-Pressed Oak
 Circa early 1900s
 Accession number 6
 Donated by: Mr. J. Maley

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission is prohibited.

President's Message (continued) — Alycia E. Rihacek

Golf Aficionados, do you need a reason to take a day off from work and enjoy a day on the links? Well, this is your excuse... You can help support our Society & the Museum!



Location: the beautiful Colts Neck Golf Club.
 Date: Thursday, May 17, 2012.
 To register by computer, <http://www.greatgolfevents.com/Madison.html>, or call Roger Caldwell at (888) 324-9515.

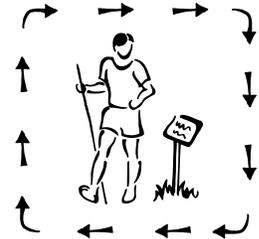
The Membership Pot-luck Picnic will be coming up on June 19th, so get your recipes ready and plan to make an afternoon of reconnecting with everyone here at the Society. Join us at the Museum; bring a lawn chair and a have a visit. Family and Friends are invited too... call the Museum for more information.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the Historical Society. I am very proud of our teamwork and the exceptional accomplishments of all. **Elections for the Board of the Society will be Tuesday April 17th at 7:00 PM**, I hope to see you then.

If you are unable to make it, I wish you many blessings of the springtime season for renewed joy, health and prosperity.

Good things in the community:

We have been invited by the park superintendent, David Donnelly, to attend the Cheesequake Park Community Open House on May 20th. The park itself is the heart of our township's rich history, as memorialized in our book "At the Headwaters of Cheesequake Creek". If you live in the area plan to stop by and visit one of the Best State Parks in NJ. It's Free ... so bring your kids and grandchildren!



The historical author Randy Gabrielan has finished his research concerning the history of military and commercial munitions manufacturing in our area. He is an exceptionally patient and gracious historian, sharing many of his findings with our organization. We eagerly await his publication!

John Hauser is working with Middlesex County Co-op and the Old Bridge Township elementary schools in preserving and highlighting our agricultural legacy. One such highlight was the opportunity to video-interview Mr. Herbert Cottrell Jr. Pat Schuck took the time to assist Mr. Hauser as our oral-history interviewer. Mr. Cottrell's family legacy in the township can be traced to its very beginning. There is much to learn from Mr. Cottrell and we thank him for the opportunity to have a visit.



We have so many questions about our Township's contemporary history. We are always looking for more information from photos, films, businesses, organizations, notable events, and personal stories. From Lake Duheral to Laurence Harbor & Cliffwood Beach, Brunswick Gardens, Southwood & Sayerwood South Neighborhoods, we're interested in every corner of our town! Stop by the Museum, we would love to hear your stories, and your questions too.

**MEMBERSHIP
PICNIC**

**June 19th
At the Museum**



Don't forget to bring:

- Folding chair
- Something delicious to share

Curator's Corner—Kate Philbrick

I would like to offer a great big HUZDAH to Pat Schuck for organizing and conducting an awesome NEW event for February-- the Children's Tea, which took place at the Museum on Saturday February 18. It was a resounding success and hopefully the start of an annual or bi-annual fundraiser. A big thank you to all the volunteers who contributed their time and baked goodies to make the day fabulous!

Also, many thanks to all who have attended our first two Curator Sundays. These informal talks on a variety of subjects take place at the museum on a Sunday late in the month, and are open to members and the public. We even have refreshments, and always encourage discussions. Give the museum a call any weekend at (732) 566-2108 to find out about upcoming dates and subjects.



Our special doll display for the month of March, arranged and provided by member Linda McGovern, included dolls from antique to contemporary. It was great to hear the reactions, and share the memories, as several of the dolls on exhibit were the same ones we once owned and cherished.

We are pleased to tell you of some recent additions to the museum collection. Patricia Schuck brought us some great vintage smalls, including book repair tape used by schools and libraries 'back in the day', and a classic fountain pen. She also delivered Dottie Schuck's wonderful gift of a pair of gentleman's spats, including the name of the original owner. Kathi Petti of Aberdeen brought us a great box of antique postcards, referencing the Patterson and Cottrell families. We are looking forward to researching the events and names these include and putting together a timeline.

Other recent acquisitions include a DVD of Verne James' lecture and tour of sites relevant to the Morgan area Gillespie plant explosion of 1918. (Also, check out his online site on the subject!). Mrs. Schwarzenberg of Sayreville-- a Burlew descendant-- donated a property survey map from 1944, and Ann Miller with Mrs. Carley Weiss gave us 5 area maps, 2 Madison Twp. Civil Defense signs, and a vintage Brownie camera. Apologies if I have forgotten anyone and many thanks to all for remembering us with these historically valuable items.

Following the Tea with Mrs. Lincoln in April, we will be featuring a display of vintage wedding gowns and photos, as well as other items such as cake toppers, invitations and bridesmaids dresses for the spring. This promises to be a big exhibit, and I am looking forward to it.

We would love to have the temporary loan of Members' wedding photos, to be included in this special display, and I hope you will call me (Kate) at the museum any weekend, or stop by to drop an item off. This includes wedding gowns, too, ladies! Loaned items are much appreciated and will be returned at the end of the exhibit.

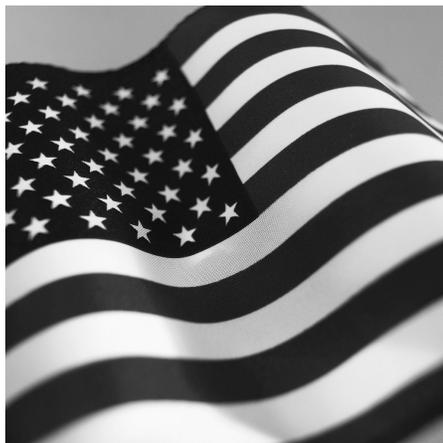


Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Kate Philbrick, curator, Thomas Warne Museum

Did You Know: Memorial Day —Kate Philbrick

Memorial Day marks the start of summer, perhaps especially celebrated here in New Jersey where our beaches and shore attractions are favorite destinations for millions every year. All too often this holiday means nothing more than a three day weekend, and it's time to break out the barbeque grill (not to mention the lawn mower). However, Memorial Day is actually the day we set aside to honor our veterans and war dead.



Memorial Day was one of four holidays moved to a Monday as the result of the “Uniform Holiday Bill” passed in Congress, June of 1968. Prior to that, it was celebrated annually on May 30th.

It began as Decoration Day, immediately following the Civil War. Its first recorded observation goes back to Charlestown, South Carolina, May 1, 1865. On that date a group of freed slaves organized a memorial commemoration at Washington Race Course. It had been used as a prison camp, where over 260 Union prisoners died and were buried in unmarked graves. A day of memorial was later celebrated in the North for the first time on May 5, 1868.

Decoration Day became an annual event to honor those who died in the war between the states. Families would visit cemeteries to ‘decorate’ the graves of the honored dead, and picnic in the graveyard. This tradition survives in areas of the South today, and serves as a time for family reunions. Spreading blankets and enjoying a potluck meal among the headstones is not to be considered something disrespectful. Keep in mind, many cemeteries of that time were laid out as city parks and routinely the site of Sunday strolls.

Present day veterans organizations observe Memorial Day weekend by placing markers and American flags on the graves of veterans, carrying on the original tradition. Parades are held in most American towns in memory of those, living or dead, who served.

The practice of honoring the living as well as those who gave their lives came about in the 20th century. Veterans can also be found selling ‘Buddy Poppies’ throughout the month of May. These symbolize the poppies growing in Europe on the graves of World War I soldiers who never came home.

Communities promote annual picnics, concerts and other celebrations to call attention to the meaning of the holiday. Scout troops lead cemetery clean-ups, and school children visit Veterans’ Homes to provide entertainment to the residents, as a means to show thanks.

My father, Chet Philbrick, a long-time member of the Historical Society, is a veteran of both WWII and Korea. He is always very moved by those who stop to shake his hand or thank him, whether he is selling poppies, or out and about wearing his VFW jacket. No matter how we chose to spend the ‘start of summer’, we should certainly spend part of that time remembering the true reason for the day.

I want to offer a special thank you to all our members who are veterans, and to the families of those who served. Don’t forget to thank a vet!

Notes from Recent Membership Meetings:

Upcoming general membership meetings:

April 17th

May 14th

June 19th—membership picnic

Some possible future curator talk topics:

The Whiteman murders of 1908

Civil War Veterans of the township (did you know that some of the local streets are name for local veterans?)

The Morro Castle Disaster

Stay tuned for the topic of the month

The sewing group of the Society has completed muslin covers for the folding chairs to use for formal events, as well as over 40 aprons to use as favors for the Tea with Mrs. Lincoln.

Although the Society has been approached to provide more “tea events” for local scout groups, it was decided that we do not have enough volunteers to commit to the number of groups requesting these events. We will, of course, continue to provide free tours for groups.

Thank you to the Suburban for great coverage of the Children’s Tea, complete with photos! Thank you to volunteers for all the recent events, to the sewing group, and to the regular Friday and weekend museum volunteers. Always room for more volunteers—contact Pat Schuck if you have a little time to spare!

Annual Golf

Outing

May 17th

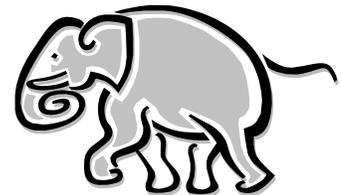


DID YOU FORGET??

We would like to start an email reminder list for:

- Membership Meetings
- Upcoming events such as the Apple Festival
- Curator Talks

You would receive an email reminder about 5-7 days prior to the event. Sign up by emailing your name and contact information to: DGS747@gmail.com



This program is made possible by

Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders

Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission

with funding in part from

New Jersey Historical Commission

a Division in the Dept of State



Research Family and Local History

The 1940 Census images are online! In the first day of the National Archives release of Census Data for the 1940's may have crashed the government servers... but we here at the Museum are excited about the new links for our genealogy research. Did you know that we offer computer access to Ancestry.com and can help you start your family tree for a small fee? Call or stop by the Museum for more information.

Did you also know that social media sites such as Facebook are a great way to reconnect our community to its history? Check out group sites such as: "Growing Up in Old Bridge", "Things that Aren't There Anymore: Central NJ Edition", "Laurence Harbor" and "Cliffwood Beach". In many cases the "Social" reconnections are the norm, however, some little gems of information, photos and historic lore come through. We welcome you to "share" post any information that you may find on the Internet on our Facebook page "The Thomas Warne Museum".



Having Fun at the Children's Tea Party



Madison Township Historical Society Meeting Schedule

2012

Regular Meetings: at 7:00pm (Held the 3rd Tuesday of the Month unless otherwise noted)

- January 17th
- February 21st
- March 20th
- April 17th
- May 15th
- June 19th—picnic
- July/August—no meetings
- September 18th
- October 18th—
Founder’s Day
- November 20th
- December Luncheon

Board of Directors: at 7:30pm (Held the 2nd Monday of the Month unless otherwise noted)

- January 9th
- February 13th
- March 12th
- April 9th
- May 14th
- June 11th
- July 9th
- August 13th
- September 10th
- October 8th
- November 12th
- December 10th

Madison Township Historical Society

2012 Membership Form

Regular annual membership dues for the year 2012 in the Madison Township Historical Society (MTHS) are \$15 per person.

Dues are due by April 1st, 2012.

To renew or apply for a new membership, please complete this form and make payment in person at the Thomas Warne Museum or mail this complete form along with check or money order (Please Do Not Mail Cash) made payable to:

Madison Township Historical Society—(memo note: *“Membership”*)

Mail to:

Membership Committee
Madison Township Historical Society
4216 Route 516
Matawan, NJ 07747



Please Print

Check One

2012 Renewal

New Member

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Would you like to receive your Newsletter via Email? Yes No

Would you like to be a MTHS Committee Volunteer? Yes No

Would you like to be a Museum Volunteer? Yes No

For Office Use:

Cash

Check/MO#

AMOUNT PAID

RECEIPT



Thomas Warne Museum & Library



“The Little Red School House”
across from the Old Bridge
Township High School Complex.

We welcome all questions and
information pertaining to local
family genealogy, township
history, historic buildings and
archeological findings.

Community groups and school
tours available by appointment.

Home of the
Madison Township Historical Society,
serving Old Bridge Township.

Open to the Public
Fridays—Noon-4PM
Saturday & Sunday Noon-6PM

PHONE: 732-566-2108

FAX: 732-566-6943

Visit Our Web Site

www.thomas-warne-museum.com
and Join Us on Facebook

Madison Township Historical Society
4216 Route 516
Matawan, NJ 07747

