



Timepiece

Volume 47, Issue 1
January-February-March 2013

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President's Message—Alycia E. Rihacek

It's amazing how quickly time flies... The Madison Township Historical Society wishes you a Happy 2013! Since the last newsletter was a special edition concerning Super-storm Sandy we had to waylay some information that we would like to catch up on.

I would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for coming together during our events, outreach programs (and Sandy's visit) and working as a team. And to our new members—welcome aboard, we hope you are having fun and learning about our great history! Our public outreach at Old Bridge Day, Alumni Walkway and Monmouth County Archives Day was a pleasure to attend. Don't forget to shop local for our hometown "Jersey Grown" produce at our friends Cheesequake Farms and Hauser Hill Farms when they reopen this spring.

In other news, we did not receive the New Jersey Cultural Trust Grant. It was a very difficult year for the commission to make the decisions as to who would receive funding, with 38 nonprofit groups requesting \$1.4 million in assistance. The state of New Jersey allocated only \$400,000 to the NJ Cultural Trust. Eleven nonprofit groups in the most need of emergency funding receive grants. The good news is that we are now working on long-range goals and plans specifically for care and maintenance of our facility. When the recession eases up, the Cultural Trust may receive more funds from the state. In the interim, our roof is holding up, thanks to dedicated members who have volunteered to patch any further leaks. Thank you Karen Longo, for your assistance, knowledge and wisdom in the grant process, as we plan to apply again next year.

Be on the lookout for some very special events this year...

On March 19th (during our General Membership Meeting) we will view the Oral History Video of Herbert Cottrell, Jr. (produced by John Hauser).

In April, Randall Gabrielan, historian and author of numerous books on the history of New Jersey, will present a lecture on his new publication "Explosion at Morgan: The World War I Middlesex Munitions Disaster". It was a fantastic and educational experience to work with Mr. Gabrielan on his very detailed book about the history of the WWI munitions manufacturing and the impact this terrible tragedy had on the local communities. We hope that you will attend and learn about this incredible history in our own back yard. Randy will also have his books for sale at this event.

May you and all of your loved ones have a happy and productive New Year... and we look forward to seeing you soon.

MEETING CALENDAR

- *Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings: January 15, February 19, March 19*
- *Board of Directors Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings: January 14, February 11, March 11*

**MADISON TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

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

MUSEUM CURATOR

Kathleen M. Philbrick

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Deborah Stanley

Masthead image:

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

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We're Looking for Your Stories— Alycia E. Rihacek

Laurence Harbor Residents

Sandy has taken a toll on many of our lives... but we are seeking your stories about the storm and the history of your family weathering the many storms in the Harbor for our archive! Also relating to the Harbor... do you know there are Three Sunken objects, possibly boats, off of Paul's Beach (aka. Morgan Beach) dating before 1920/40s... our archive is lacking any information on these sunken vessels. If you recall seeing them or have any photos, or stories about them, please contact Alycia, drop us a note, or stop by the museum.

South Old Bridge and Lake Duhernal groupies

We are always on the lookout for more information about the summer days spent at Lake Duhernal. We are compiling a collection of stories and photos from the Facebook group site "Growing Up in Old Bridge". It would be great to compile them into a full history from it's founding till today. Do you remember Mr. Miller from the 1950s, the beach stand Juke Box, the bait shop or even have stories of "just hanging out" with friends in the 1970s. Please, drop Alycia a note or stop by the Museum. It would be a nice addition to our archive and possibly a future publication... and we promise not to tell the authorities or your parents... and to change names if needed... but all stories are welcome. Really, we would like to hear from you about your time at Duhernal... before it's forgotten.

Fr. Walter French of St. Thomas Roman Catholic Church.

Also from Facebook- "Growing Up in Old Bridge", the Reverend Walter French, although not the first Pastor of St. Thomas Church in the Village of Old Bridge... He was a man of extraordinary faith and some say a "Miracle Worker", which till this day has not been forgotten by many in the township. Do you have a story of his charity, generosity and pastorship during the founding of the new St. Thomas the Apostle Church on Route 18, that you would like to share? We would love to hear from you.



*Fourth Annual Tea at The Thomas Warne Museum
sponsored by The Madison Township Historical Society.*

Saturday April 6, 2013 at 2:00pm.

Once again Mary Todd Lincoln will be portrayed by Judi Cox.

Tickets (\$20each) by reservation only.

Sales limited to first 40 tickets sold.

Contact Pat Schuck at 732-566-5029

Menu consists of Tea, Quiche, Six Savories and Six Sweets.

Favors and prizes for all. Call for your reservation now.

What's In a Name—Alycia Rihacek

Township Anniversaries- time to think about the future while looking back at the past.

Did you know that in 2019 we will be celebrating 150 years since our incorporation as the independent township of Madison?

Why are we bringing this up now? We believe that now is as good a time as any to start planning for a party, and 2019 will be here before you know it!

Would you like to be a part of the festivities, helping to raise awareness, organizing community participation? Three volunteers have already signed on board as a committee: Phil McGovern, Justin Smigelsky and Casey Dennison. If you would like to join them in the party-planning, let us know!

Part One of this Story: How did we become Madison Township?

In the year 1869, our township's founding residents felt that we would be better served by separating from South Amboy. At the time, our representation, by way of taxes, was not adequately returning to assist our local infrastructure, most notably our early public schools and roadways. Better roadways were needed to assist our farming families in taking their produce to market. Local residents who lived on the main roads or near stream bridges had the responsibility to maintain them, usually at great personal expense. In some cases, there were allowances to charge tolls on these roads and bridges to assist in the upkeep, with a portion of the toll going to the municipality, for the future rebuilding or repair if the landowner could not keep it up.

Likewise, the desire for an expedient and efficient public education was also on the forefront of this decision. At the time, the State Legislature was attempting to standardize our public education system. Residents would report their income and assets to the Township of South Amboy. The Township would report the income to the County, then the County would report to the State. The State would determine who could "afford to pay the most" by population, and thus "trickle down" money for district public schools. It was a difficult time and in some instances corruption was determining where the monies went. Those districts such as our own, that needed it most, would receive little to none. "Pauper Schools" as they were called then had quite a hard time staying open. Parents kept their children at home or depended upon Sunday Schools for their children's education.

Our Township leaders understood that they were not being represented adequately by being part of the South Amboy Township. (And from published histories, South Amboy wanted to be free of the rural demographic and responsibility, since they believed the "city" would prosper as the Railroad Hub of the Camden Amboy Railroad). Our communities, Jacksonville (Cheesequake), Browntown, South Old Bridge and Texas - Forty-Two Square miles in total—were connected by poor roadways and children in need of a better education. Our tax money was going to the "city" of South Amboy, due to the larger population. So by unanimous vote on March 2, 1869, we became Madison Township. The name was chosen to honor James Madison, 4th President of the United States, the "Father of the Bill of Rights", who was a frequent visitor during his studies at Princeton along with his classmate, the local noted future "poet of the Revolution" Philip Freneau and his sister Mary. (*For more information about Mary Freneau and James Madison... see our Book "At the Headwaters of Cheesequake Creek"*). So this is how we came into being, until 105 years later...

IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER: Why Did We Change Our Name from Madison Township to Old Bridge Township?

History in Your Hand: It's the Little Things—Kate Philbrick

The inspiration for our next museum exhibit came from setting up the December display. Going through the artifacts for the holiday cases, I was pleased-- as usual-- to find so many unique pieces in our collection. Many of these items are rarely seen unless an exhibit highlights a particular theme, and for the next few months, focus will be on “miniatures”.

The term “miniature” was originally used to describe the small portraits commissioned and carried by men and women of some affluence, especially during the 16th through 18th centuries. Following the invention of photography in the 1840s, those miniature portraits were replaced by photographic images, right up to the ‘wallet sized’ portraits familiar to many of us. Historically, miniature also referred to the small intricate artwork common to illuminated manuscripts.

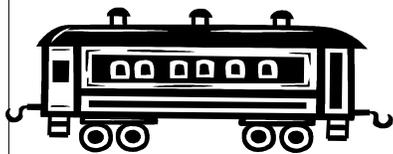


These days, we use the word miniature when referring to scale models and dollhouses. Most of us have dealt with ‘minis’ at one time or another, as a hobby or interest. Who hasn’t played with dolls, or toy soldiers as a child? You may have glued together plastic models, filled a ‘printer’s drawer’ with tiny objects or designed a room or shadowbox. Model railroading is perhaps one of the best known and most popular forms of a ‘miniature’ hobby.

However, before miniatures took the shape we know today, ‘smalls’ were fascinating, collectable, and even useful. Dioramas, seen as teaching aids and frequently found in museums to illustrate historical events and locations, are another common use of miniatures. Salesman samples, such as small examples of furniture, found their way into the hands of a lucky child and eventually became a treasured heirloom. Animals, cars, houses, musical instruments, books-- anything imaginable-- has been reproduced in miniature, often in great detail and at some expense, available once more only to the affluent.

Baby houses, the Victorian equivalent to the modern-day dollhouse, while meant to represent small, playable buildings, had no set or uniform scale. Nowadays, the common ratio used is one inch representing one foot, the 1 to 1 scale (also called 1 to 12). However 1/2 inch to a foot, or even smaller, can be found.

How does this ‘measure up’ to a museum display? We will be showing off hidden treasures from the collection, including samples used by stores to promote sales, a scale model of a blacksmith shop, a train, and a dollhouse which is a reproduction of an historical property in our township. You’ll see vintage dollhouses on loan from our members, and other miniature delights depicting ‘little’ glimpses into the past.



We welcome any additional mini items you might care to loan for the exhibit, which will run from mid January through April. Hope to see you there!

IN THE MUSEUM SHOP: Looking for a special gift? We have some great items available during museum hours: maps of Madison Township, our book *At The Headwaters of Cheesquake Creek*, Old Bridge Speedway t-shirts, and craft items (e-book covers, cosmetic bags, bibs, etc.) handmade in our hometown! Check it out!



A MUSEUM TOUR

On Dec 28, 2012, we had a scheduled visit from The Costello Day Program. This group of visitors comes to visit us often. Angela Adams, the Program Manager, always asks what our next event will be.

The December event was a tour of the Christmas Window displays and decorations. I organized a Yankee Swap, which the visitors enjoyed. Each one went home with three gifts. It's always a pleasure to have them visit.

Dot Hauser came to help that day. The Costello Day Program is an Adult Training Program run by Allies Inc. We'll be looking forward to their next visit.

If you have any items you'd like to donate for future activities please contact me.

—Pat Schuck 732-566-5029

A Bit of Sunshine: Get Well Soon

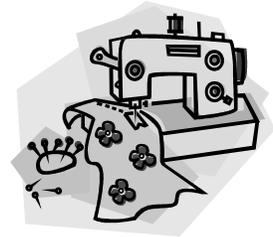
Howard Drake
Sylvia Lubar
Phil McGovern
Chet Philbrick



CRAFTS AND ATTIC TREASURES NEEDED

MTHS will have a table at the Mid-Madison Woman's Club Flea Market on April 13, 2013, from 7AM-2PM. We will sell craft items and Attic Treasures.

Donations are welcome.
Drop off at the museum
during regular hours.



Save the date
Annual Golf
Outing
May 17th



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



SPECIAL March 19 Meeting PROGRAM

Herbert Cottrell Jr. was to be honored at our Apple Festival 2012, which was cancelled due to Sandy. An Apple Bucket filled with the Apple posters was presented to him at his home instead.



Our March 19 General meeting will have a program featuring a DVD interview with Mr. Cottrell that was done in March 2012. Mr. Cottrell was interviewed by John Hauser and Patricia Schuck as part of our continuing mission to preserve the oral history of the township.

Come and view, to enjoy this part of history for yourself.



Bring your own memories of the Cottrell Apple Orchard and Browntown Apple Jack.

Friday Volunteers Always Welcome.

- Have you made your New Year's Resolution? Here's one for you to **make** and **keep**: Volunteer just "**ONE**" Friday at the Museum in 2013. Isn't that easy?
- We're fortunate to have some very faithful regulars such as Leona Murphy, Joan Gibson, Ann Miller and Jack Becker, who do it every month. Others such as Carol Kosobucki, Sylvia Marcin and Mary Sohor come in frequently. Will you be able to do it **ONCE** this Year? The reward is really feeling like a part of the Museum, not just a member. Please call Pat 732-566-5029 before 2014. Make this a resolution you can keep.



Madison Township Historical Society Meeting Schedule **2013**

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

- January 15
- February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21
- June 18—picnic
- July/August—no meetings
- September 17
- October 15—
Founder’s Day
- November 19
- December Luncheon

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

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

Madison Township Historical Society **2013 Membership Form**

Regular annual membership dues for the year 2013 in the Madison Township Historical Society (MTHS) are \$15 per person.

Dues are due by April 1st, 2013.

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

2013 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

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Matawan, NJ 07747

