



Timepiece

Volume 47, Issue 3
July-August-September 2013

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MEETING CALENDAR

- *Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings: September 17*
- *Board of Directors Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted. Upcoming meetings: July 8, August 12, September 9*

President's Message—Alycia E. Rihacek

Summertime

If it's Tuesday it must be, Belgium...

Ah, do pardon our tardiness... the late summer glorious weather and vacation mind frame has us in a bit of a lackadaisical discombobulating. Yes, so much is going on, that to sit down and write an epistle has migrated through our cranium like the staccato notes of the cicada on the summer breeze.

But to briefly bring everyone up to speed...

We were visited by Edward Raser, preeminent researcher of genealogical information pertaining to graveyards of New Jersey. Some of you may know of his fine compendium publications of New Jersey graveyard and gravestone inscriptions of Monmouth, Mercer and Morris counties... His latest is that of Middlesex County... which brought him to our museum archive. We can now say under his fine and exquisite research and sleuthing, that the Brown Family Homestead Graveyard maybe closer to pinpointing! And yes, we now have at least one Transcription of a gravestone from that location that was lost through time. Also, The Provost/Bowne Graveyard, in Laurence Harbor, will be duly updated and poor Mira Bowne's stone will be listed as residing with us, until further research and security measures can be implemented to return her marker to its proper place.

Another spectacular association relating to Our Township's Founding Family's genealogy of local industry... was a visit by Donald Carpentier of Historic Eastfield Village of New York. Don is an exceptional living history craftsman and preservationist, well known among many of the most notable historic preservation societies, for his intensive Hands-on Workshop Retreats in upstate New York. Don's passion for preserving the artisan trades of the 18c/19c and his recreated teaching Village are well known, even given the Martha Stewart stamp of approval. And to think, his passion as a self-trained Potter may very well be due to his bloodline that links to our historic ceramic industry. (Bissett, Letts and maybe Warne?). Thanks to Suzan Luze of the East Brunswick Museum (The Historic Village of Old Bridge Museum, in East Brunswick) for bringing him in for a visit.

One more Visit to be of note, News12 NJ (Cablevision) filmed a spot highlighting our Museum for a future web or tv air date, "Things to do" so stay tuned.

**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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Window Inserts– Ciel Power, LLC will be installing energy efficient window inserts within our historic school house. Indow Windows, a thin but strong Plexiglas panels, measured to exact size of the interior frame for each of our windows and are fully removable for cleaning. They are a cost effective alternative to replacement windows, which we would not consider since the Historic look must be preserved (our windows from the 1920s renovations, and apparently, as per the laser measurements taken by the techs, the most plumb and true windows they have ever measured... talk about craftsmanship). We will be tracking the energy savings, over the next year. Also as part of the benefit these windows will decrease UV light intrusion and act as a sound barrier, which were two other issues we needed to remedy.

“Fix The Roof Fund”- The Elks of Old Bridge Lodge 2229 have stepped up to the plate to start our School House reroofing fund-raiser, with a generous donation of \$2000. As many of you remember we are hoping to re-shingle the school house roof within the next few years. We would like to ultimately raise \$15,000 to insure that we find and use expert NJ historic preservation approved company to re-shake the school house roof. Would you or your company like to help us in this endeavor? Contact any one of our board members or Rich Kujawinski for more info.

We hope to see you soon for many of our exciting events coming up.

Blessings and good tidings to one and all. And we will see you at our next Meeting in September.

**ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING
SEPTEMBER 26**



**To reserve a space
or for more information,
visit the golf outing website**

<http://www.greatgolfevents.com/Madison.html>

OLD BRIDGE DAY

September 21

**An opportunity
to publicize upcoming
Historical Society events
and the Museum.**

**Volunteers needed!
Contact Alycia Rihacek.**

**THOMAS WARNE MUSEUM
RACE CAR SHOW**

OCTOBER 5 & 6



- ◆ **Vintage cars**
- ◆ **Speedway Memorabilia display at the Museum**

New At The Museum—Kate Philbrick

We have recently received several new additions to our museum collection:

Received from Cora (Vreeland) and Millie Low, June 2013:

1. Small 1849 Methodist Hymnal, leather covers, gold emboss.-- v. good condition
2. Holy Bible, small, red leather faux alligator grain, brass edging and clasp, spine wear to leather, otherwise v. good, many small tokens in pages
3. Paper pamphlet, damaged condition, Dr. Pierce's Memorandum Book, advertising and 1929-1930 calendar book
4. Small photo, paper, dated 1923, beach view
5. Two home digest paperback type books, bad/damaged condition. Lovell's Library, 1882, and Standard Library, 1884. Both fragile.
6. 1979 repro Sears Roebuck and Co. 1909 catalogue, fair condition.

Received from Brian Cubley, June 2013:

- 1) Copy of land survey map, Jake Brown Rd., 1905

Received from Al Jolly, June 29 2013:

- 1) Original 8 x 10 B&W photo, local Circle AA Baseball Team, includes Al's father Mel and other members identified.

Received from George Anthony Castiglia, June 2013:

- 1) Two scrapbooks, Madison Township/Old Bridge Township Auxiliary Police, 1960s-70s. Red album with Aux. Police sticker on cover, brown album with Aux. Police monogram cover. Many photos, news clipping, pamphlets, etc. Terrific history.

Received from Mr. Robert and Margaret Beringer, June 23:

- 1) Early, original walking/driving tour of Old Bridge map and guide
- 2) Madison Twp Map, League of Women Voters, (1964?) Fair condition.
- 3) Several tissue paper map overlays, approx. 5 x 8"
- 4) Typed 2 page recollection 'Cedar Grove School Days' by Peggy Chamberlain Beringer 1985-- excellent personal account.
- 5) Copy Browntown school 'yearbook' page, 1950, showing school and student pictures.
- 6) Five Madison Township Public School report cards, Peggy Chamberlain, Cedar Grove and Browntown schools, years '46 to '51.
- 7) Several newspaper clippings, Cedar Grove school/class reunion.
- 8) Worksheet and typed report pages on historic Bushnell/Brown home and family history. Good condition.
- 9) 1967 pamphlet Resource Guide to Madison Township, Volume I: A Beginning, prepared for public school staff. Pictures sites of local historic and natural importance. Good.
- 10) Two copies 21st Anniversary year newsletters, July-August and September 1985, Madison Township Historical Society Newsletter. Very good.
- 11) Gold felt CGS ribbon worn at reunion. Good condition
- 12) Madison Township Historical Society Souvenir Program 100th Anniversary, September 8, 1985. Excellent condition.
- 13) Copy of At the Headwaters of Cheesequake Creek, poor condition.
- 14) Two copies 'Our School Album' Browntown School 1955-56, paper, plastic spiral spine yearbook.
- 15) Headwaters book original order form, green, new condition.
- 16) Two geological survey maps, 1947, 1930. Excellent condition.
- 17) Corn planter, farm tool. Very good condition
- 18) Wheat seeder, farm tool. Very good condition.
- 19) Dozen Square Dance record albums, used for the dances held in the schoolhouse after no longer used as school.

Taken from Green Farm, June 2013:

- 1) Old Model A, or Model T automobile wrench, some rust.
- 2) Old molding plane, rusted.
- 3) Metal carpenter's square, rusted.
- 4) Three paper snapshots, various family, one identified.
- 5) Matted photo portrait, 2 children.
- 6) Framed photo, older woman in apron.
- 7) carpenter's level

Other recent contributions include

\$37 in coupons for Morganville flower farm donated by Deb Stanley, used by Pat Schuck to purchase 3 lilies, 1 hollyhock, and portulica, and which she planted near flag pole, 6 July. Morganville Flower Farm donated other plants to TWM. Carol Kosobucki also donated a lily. The perennial gardens are looking lovely this year.

CEDAR GROVE SCHOOL DAYS—Peggy Chamberlain Beringer

When I was seven years old, my family moved to Cedar Grove from the suburban town of East Orange, New Jersey and I entered 2nd Grade in May. All my new classmates did their writing in cursive, and I only knew how to print, so my first task was to learn to "write"---and fast. I did not like to use the "Outhouse," so afternoons could seem very long as I uncomfortably waited the opportunity to go home.

I liked going to school with older children. There was a nice feeling of looking out for and helping the younger kids. I think Sally Gallimore stopped for me in the morning and then Ray Ann Bowne~~s~~ joined us at the corner and we walked along the highway to school in our little group.

Miss Squires was the teacher that first two months. When school opened in September, we had a sub, Mrs. Coates. She was only there a few weeks when she left and my Mother, who was a certified, experienced teacher was asked to teach until a permanent teacher could be found. After Christmas Miss Hoffman became the teacher. I think her mother was there in her place as much as she was. In 1946-47 Mrs. Thain was there and my recollection was that it was a very good year. Mrs. Henderson became the teacher in September, 1947 and she was well-liked and a good teacher. She eventually taught at Browntown when we were moved there.

I loved playing house in the woods, down by the brook. We swept leaves and twigs into walls with "brooms of branches" and then played in our houses.

We knew all the best places to catch frogs and pollywogs. When your legs were long enough, to straddle the water running through the pipe under the road, you could join the bigger kids exploring the brook further away. The water was deep where the pipe ended and we often got wet feet as we tried that tricky jump from the pipe to the slippery bank.

One winter we discovered a pond where we could slide down the bank and onto the ice for a very nice ride. We didn't always hear the school bell from there and it was a long way back.

Unfortunately I don't remember the reading, writing, and arithmetic lessons. Most of my memories involve recess. I do remember doing lots of blackboard work and older kids helping younger ones.

In 4th grade Miss Thain introduced "tonettes" and music to the curriculum. I have enjoyed music ever since. We played for many special occasions. After graduating from Browntown School, I returned to provide a similar music experience for the younger children there.

Mr. Voorhees, the Superintendent of Schools, brought supplies and I can remember lining up by the supply closet to choose one piece of colored paper to draw on.

I can also remember the visit of the school nurse. Then we lined up with our pencils so she could check us for head lice by the window. It was very embarrassing for anyone so inflicted.

Cedar Grove Days (continued)

I guess visitors to the school made an impression on me. The delivery of the new water bottle was a highlight as that was a favorite spot in the room----especially for the little children. How entranced we were watching that big bubble rise! Someone from the community was always responsible for keeping the fire going in the stove during cold weather. In my day it was Mr. Vernott who did it for awhile.

As a member of the safety patrol, I went on a bus trip to Connie Mack Stadium in Philadelphia to a ball game.

Recesses were fun. We played hide and seek and dodge ball in the yard around the school, and spin the bottle and post office in or behind the coal house. It was kind of dark and spider webby but the teacher usually didn't think to look in there.

We brought our sleds if there was a good snow and sledged down the hill. It was necessary to steer around a big tree. Audrey hit it hard and got a bad concussion one time.

For most of my years in Cedar Grove, we walked to school. Some of the children had to walk very far and eventually we had a bus. Mr. Van Doran was the bus driver and a favorite person of my childhood. He picked Anne and me up even though we were not two miles from school, because he had room. On April Fool's Day he'd go past, pretending we weren't there, and then stop further down the road for us. When he was old enough, his grandson, Jimmy, sat in a little seat by his grandfather and enjoyed that bus ride every day.

I was in the largest class, I think. I remember Dotty Hoever, Richard Robinson, Billy Rose, and Audrey Rushing. When we were in 6th grade the school was closed and we were moved to Browntown which had been enlarged to accommodate more students and had indoor toilets (but no water bottle!) The 7th and 8th grades had already been moved the year before so we were top dogs for one year in Cedar Grove.

When Cedar Grove was no longer used as a classroom, the Cedar Grove Community Club used it for their many activities. There were square dances on Friday night that a lot of Cedar Grove families attended. Young and old enjoyed these evenings together. I remember fondly my association with neighborhood adults who were very much a part of my growing-up years.

Peggy Chamberlain Beringer

Apple Festival—A 48 year tradition

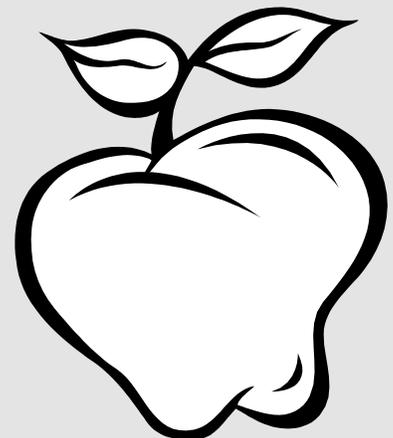
NOVEMBER 3, 2013 from 12:00 to 4:00PM, Old Bridge Civic Center

Would you like to be a part of it?

There are many ways to participate. Whether it be 3 months, 3 days or 3 hours, your help will make another success story.

- The artist in you may want to be involved in judging the children's poster contest.
- Maybe you're a P.R. person. Good publicity is so important.
- The apple peelers and bakers are the "CORE" of the Festival.
- Volunteers are needed on the day of the Festival (from 10AM to 4PM) for transport of artifacts, setup of displays, and sales of food, crafts, gift items and Attic Treasures.
- Have something to donate (food, crafts, attic treasures)?
- Have an idea on how we can improve the Apple Festival?

Hope to hear from you soon, Patricia Schuck and Deb Stanley





CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT SALE

This was the first year for a new summer fund-raiser. The goals were modest—to raise some money and to bring in new visitors during the “slow” summer season.

Thanks to donations of hand-made craft items by members, along with some lovely “attic treasures” and some home-baked desserts, a little over \$500 was raised. Several members gave generously of their time as assistants and cashiers.

Many of the shoppers had never been to the museum before and kept both Kate and Pat busy giving school-house and gallery tours. All in all—success!

A Bit of Sunshine: Get Well Soon

Pauline Drake
Sylvia Marcin
Carol Kosobucki
Chet Philbrick



THE ANNUAL MIDDLESEX COUNTY FAIR

Thanks to all who helped man the MTHS tables at the annual Middlesex County Fair. We were fortunate to occupy (indoor) space in the new Agriculture Building, which had opened only a few days before the fair, especially when the rains came!

Some very interesting antique farm displays were hastily set up around our table and the tractors in particular drew a lot of attention. Also of interest was an old poultry plucker which drew much speculation as to its operation!

Our table full of artifacts from the museum were well received. The kids enjoyed the “antique” dial telephones and adults enjoyed our old photo books.

A good time was had by all. Join us next year!

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



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

4216 Route 516

Matawan, NJ 07747

