



Timepiece

Volume 48, Issue 2
April—May—June 2014

President's Message—Alycia E. Rihacek

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Happy Birthday to You... Happy Birthday, New Jersey & Madison Township Historical Society, Inc. too!

June 24, 2014 will be the 350th anniversary of our fine State and we hope everyone will take the time to celebrate the fantastic achievements, accomplishments and the amazing natural attributes our Home has given to the world.

Take a moment to ponder... Our State History that so many unfortunately take for granted. Our State has shaped a vast amount of American contemporary life and that of the world. Of course we can notably talk about: Thomas Edison and the light bulb, Wireless Radios and Bell Labs, Railroads to Turnpikes, Incorporation Laws to Public Education. The spilled blood of local farmers defending the 'notion' of self-governing Independence & Liberty in the 18th century to the hero's of all conflicts domestic and worldwide. Our cities of industry to the suburban utopias and seaside resort towns.

All share one thing... our welcoming spirit to all people throughout the world to live in a great State that promotes liberty, religious freedom and opportunities to aspire and work to make the world better for Home all.

We may have contemplated Frank Sinatra's offer to 'Come Fly Away' or Bruce Springsteen 'Born to Run' as a proposition to leave... But like local boy Jon Bon Jovi sings: "There's only one place they call me one of their own"... 'Who says you can't go Home'. Yes, We Are New Jersey! 350 years of Innovation, Diversity and Liberty... and what a fantastic legacy... Our Home.

On that note...

As a reminder, Our Organization is also celebrating 50 years (in October) of preserving, protecting and educating the community about our own vibrant history. So why not plan on Coming Home... you know we always welcome you back, doors are open every weekend and if you have the time...

Why not stop by our Annual Membership Picnic, June 17th @ 6 PM, to kick off the State's Birthday celebration and our own. Bring a lawn chair, your stories and let's catch up!

MEETING CALENDAR

- *Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.*
- *Board of Directors Meetings: 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm unless otherwise noted.*
- *See page 7 for schedule of meetings for 2014*

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, Chris Aboia
Treasurer, Richard J. Kujawinski

DIRECTORS

Director A, Ann Miller
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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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Christmas in July Craft Sale—
July 11-13 during museum hours
Middlesex County Fair—August
4-10
Salt Water Day—August 9
Contact the muse-
um if you can help
out for an hour or
two



(president's message, continued)

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers for all of the fantastic assistance you have given to us. The Tea was another wonderful success. Our new/old Flea Market Sundays is off to a great start.

Many visitors, especially the school children, are pleased with the wonderful work we are doing to promote our history to within the community.

We welcome all to participate in volunteering within our organization to continue our mission. This is how we started fifty years ago, and it is through You that we may continue.

Thank you & Happy Birthday!



ANNUAL MEMBER PICNIC

JUNE 17, 6PM

Don't miss this chance to mingle with fellow members and enjoy a delicious potluck dinner! Bring a chair and some food to share—desserts still needed!

new jersey 350

innovation • diversity • liberty

CURATOR'S CORNER—Kate Philbrick

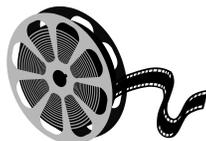
Summer is upon us, and with the warm weather and school vacations, folks and families will soon be visiting the museum. We are often reminded that people are looking for affordable getaways, close to home, with the economy and gas prices causing us all to curtail travel. Phone calls come in weekly, asking about our hours and if there is an admission fee, with most of those calls are followed up by visits.

Recently, as the weather has turned around these last few months, we've been getting some interesting inquiries, not the least being from parties wanting to metal detect the property, or asking about other available locations. Folks have come in to research maps and family names, and I'm pleased to say that even those who come in to work on school projects enjoy their time and stay longer than expected.

Besides the yard sales mentioned elsewhere in this issue, we've received donations for the collection. Leona Murphy brought us a fabulous selection of old bottles, dug by her father many years ago. They include inks, condiments and beverage bottles and are a great addition to the museum collection.



We have also been contacted by a gentleman with an original 16mm home movie of the Old Bridge Speedway to donate. Hopefully, we will be able to announce its arrival soon and have an exclusive showing! More details will be shared when we have them.



In early June we received a box of beautiful hand knit infant and children's clothing from Sylvia Marcin, and a superb full length bridal crinoline from Nina Maest. And there is another promised surprise in the works that will take your breath away-- watch this space or keep your eyes on the wall above the gallery hearth!



The Wedding and Bridal Gown display had been considered for our summer exhibit, but the notion has been shelved for now, as we are looking forward to Christmas in July! Check the date in this issue and come see us.

Hope to see you then!



Mystery at the Museum!

Here's hoping some of you will get on the case to help us solve a recent mystery at the museum. A couple of months back I arrived to open the museum for the day, and found a bag left at the door. It held pieces of what appears to be a WWII uniform.

There was no written info with it, telling us who the donor was, or who wore it, where and when. Over the last several years many people have promised to donate their father/brother/uncle/husband's military uniform 'one of these days'. Was it one of those families, or a totally unrelated/unknown donor? If you know who dropped it off for our collection-- or if indeed you are the kind party yourself--- please call or stop in some weekend to speak to me, so we can get the details. Thanks! K. Philbrick, curator

MORE AT THE MUSEUM — Kate Philbrick



Summer Yard Sales

A yard sale held at the museum on the Sunday May 25 proved something of a success. Some of us had been discussing holding sales over the summer to encourage visitation as well as raising funds. So, without fanfare we set the tables up and posted signs on the road, running the sale from noon until 4.

Beside myself, several folks donated items to sell, including Sylvia Marcin, Pat Schuck, and Chris Aboia. Everyone that stopped in to shop made a purchase, and then toured the museum. They went away with copies of the newsletter and some promised to return with their families. Hopefully, we will also gain some new members as a result. Mission accomplished!

It looks likely that we will have additional yard sales once or twice a month during ‘garage sale season’, though the dates are decided at the last minute because of weather and staffing availability. If you have items to donate for sale, feel free to drop them off at the museum any weekend, or call to see when the next sale will be held. With luck we will draw more visitors as a result, and, as mentioned, new members.

We’ve also talked about converting the coal shed back into a thrift store. Alvia Martin ran such a venture back in the 1970s and 80s, and we still have the original signs! The shed has been used for storage in recent years, but these stored items can be easily moved to other locations, including our off site locker. Considering the popularity of yard sales, bargain hunting and thrift stores these days, it could be a profitable idea to explore!



CHEESEQUAKE ADVENTURE

On a Monday afternoon in April, an intrepid band of Historical Society members met with David Donnelly, Superintendent of Cheesecake State Park for the purpose of a private tour. Those attending were Chris Aboia, David Johns, myself (Kate Philbrick), Deb Stanley and Debbie Walker. We met up at the park office and in a caravan of 3 vehicles headed out on our expedition.

We drove to areas of the park gated off to visitor traffic, then hiked along dirt path, roadway and woods to several sites discovered by our host. We were also treated to some park history, including the building of the original park museum, which no longer stands. There were mystery foundations, active osprey nests, and seeming acres of discarded bricks laced through the woods and exposed in the root-work of fallen trees, not seen perhaps for a hundred years. It was thought to be an area where neighboring brickworks had discarded their imperfect pieces.

More than 400 trees throughout the park had fallen due to Sandy, all of which had to be documented by Mr. Donnelly. He was also kind enough to point out flora and fauna of interest as we walked, including the destruction of certain plants as a result of deer over-population. He was quick to explain that efforts were underway and already making progress in reclaiming the land from non-native plant species in favor of indigenous ones.

During our journey, Mr. Donnelly suggested several places where the Historical Society might consider erecting informational plaques with photos to illustrate the historic importance of certain locations, such as the steamboat docking area or beside the remains of a clay pit. This is just one of the ways the park and the society could work in tandem to benefit both, as well as the public. Those of us who participated came home from the park that day with some new insights, information and—hopefully—new prospects. Mr. Donnelly was later good enough to visit the museum for our May membership meeting, to give a talk on the park, as well as to share new ideas. The superintendent can be found in his office most days, and is always ready to help. Why not take time for a tour of your own and discover the hidden treasures just around the corner?

TEA WITH MRS. LINCOLN: A Step-by-Step Report

It's a simple start. A date is chosen and approved by the Board. Judi Cox AKA Mary Todd Lincoln needs to be available with accompanist Paul Serge AKA as Elmer Hagsworth on the guitar. This is the fifth annual tea featuring Mary Todd Lincoln, so something new needed to be added. At Judi's suggestion, The Language of Fans was selected. Both Judi and Paul donate their talent to us.



Fortunately we have many wonderful and generous members. Marianne Tabacco donated 23 handmade fans and other gifts. Judi donated the rest of the fans, so every guest received one. We had door prizes for every guest too! This year we had prize baskets to be won. Members Carmela Barthine, Deb Stanley, Joann Berg and Laura Jean Palma donated items and/or decorated these outstanding baskets.

On the day of the Tea, Hans Kernst was out in the parking lot making sure there was sufficient parking for all. He continued to keep things running smoothly with door prizes and gifts. A variety of teas were offered this year. You know "A woman is like a tea bag, when put in hot water, they just get stronger". Kate Philbrick and Dayna Ramsey made sure the tea was brewed just right. All the food and supplies were donated by members. Some even donated cash. Jack Becker. Kate Philbrick, Phil McGovern, Carol Kosobucki, Mary Sohor and Deb Stanley donated other food items. Tickets were designed and printed by Carmela Barthine. Once the menu was decided, Alycia Rihacek designed and printed the programs. NO, NO Carrot soup. Deb Stanley designed and sewed the make up bag favors for each guest. It always amazes me how every thing comes together.

There are seven tables, six with seating for six and one table of four. Members and friends volunteer to do a table, using their own china, linens, silverware and tea pots. Joan Beamish, Leona Murphy, Deb Stanley, Betty Green and Pat Schuck have been doing this for years. This year they were joined by Ed Trabalka and Chris Aboia. The menu consisted of six types of savorys, scones and six types of sweets, made and donated by Sylvia Marcin, Leona Murphy, Deb Stanley, Joan Beamish, Betty Green and Pat Schuck. The program by Judi Cox and Paul Serge was well received as usual. Many of our guests come back year after year. When the tickets go on sale, they're sold out in one week. We usually have a waiting list to purchase tickets, since we can only seat 40.

Our tea urns are always loaned to us by Jo Ann and Rich Kujawinski. Kate Philbrick, our curator, is to be thanked for preparing and setting up chairs, tables etc. and then putting it all back. Thanks to all for another FANTastic tea, our wonderful guests and members. I'd like to recognize the members who did a table, made and donated food and served it.

Would you like to join us for a spot of TEA next year? Hope to see you soon. Pat Schuck

VOLUNTEER THANK YOU CONTEST

Beginning at the Picnic 2014 and finishing at next year's picnic, a member who donates an item such as toilet paper, paper towels, cups, plates, napkins, etc. will receive one point per item. A record will be kept in the Volunteer Book. The winner will receive a special award. By having only small amounts of products on hand, storage is not a problem, but it will help our budget.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY CRAFT SALE



WE NEED:

Shoppers
(Tell your friends and family)

Craft donations
Do you have a specialty?
All handmade items
Appreciated

Volunteers to work July 11-13
during regular museum hours

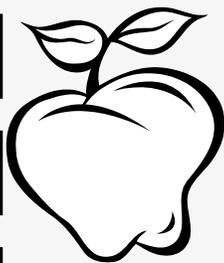
Call Deb Stanley 721-591-0257
if you can help

Apple Festival—A 49 year tradition

NOVEMBER 9, 2014 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

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 2014

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

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 21 • February 18 • March 18 • April 15 • May 20 • June 17—picnic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July/August—no meeting • September 16 • October 21 • November 18 • December -TBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 13 • February 10 • March 10 • April 14 • May 12 • June 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 14 • August 11 • September 8 • October 13 • November 10 • December 8 |
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We will do our best to contact the membership if inclement weather will cancel our Regular General Membership meetings. All Committees and Board of Director meetings will continue as scheduled, at the discretion of the Board or Committee Chair.

Madison Township Historical Society 2014 Membership Form

Annual membership dues for the year 2014 in the Madison Township Historical Society (MTHS) are \$15 for individual, \$25 family, \$10 student

Dues are due by April 1st, 2014.

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 completed 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**



Check One <input type="checkbox"/> 2014 Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member

Please Print *DATE* _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Special Interests or Hobbies _____

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	
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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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