



Timepiece

Volume 50, Issue 3
October-November-December 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the membership for electing me President of the Madison Township Historical Society. I hope that in the months to come I will be worthy of the confidence you have placed in me.

Our next event will be the Annual Apple Festival at the Old Bridge Civic Center on Sunday, November 13. Many thanks to a wonderful team who have made this possible. Hope to see you there!

Chris Aboia
President

MEETING CALENDAR

- *Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. No meeting in December.*
- *Board of Directors Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.*
- *See page 7 for schedule of meetings for 2016*

A Note from the Board:

Thank you to all who came out to the October general meeting to cast votes for a board to serve until April.

A nominating committee will be formed at November's general meeting to prepare a slate for our regular elections in April.

Several board positions will be open, so please think about accepting a position to help plan the future of the Madison Township Historical Society.

MADISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President, Chris Aboia
1st Vice-President, Patricia A. Schuck
2nd Vice-President, Jack Becker
Recording Secretary, Carol Dennison
Corresponding Secretary, Phil McGovern
Treasurer, Richard J. Kujawinski

DIRECTORS

Director A, Ann Miller
Director B, Deb Stanley
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!!

We are so grateful
for our faithful
regulars! BUT could
YOU help out by
joining in
on a Friday
afternoon
from 12-4?



Hiking Through History, A Path to the Past—Kate Philbrick

Long time residents of Old Bridge Township hold a wealth of information of which they may be unaware. They have seen the area change both gradually and drastically over the years and remember how things used to be. Recent arrivals may scratch their heads and wonder about place names, old buildings and other unfamiliar sights. The questions raised often end up on our doorstep.

Those of us who grew up in town may have memories of places and people now long gone who left no sign of existence *except* for that memory; empty lots that became strip malls or gas stations—and even gas stations that have become grassy lots. It was a lucky day when Kevin Moffat came to the museum with his sister Karen. (Karen and I, along with Jane Staeger, started researching information on notable women of the township's past, as well as little known bits of local history. Though Jane has sadly passed away, we are still working on an ever growing list.) Karen thought her brother's unique recollections would be of interest.

Kevin's memories did not stop at the changes he'd witnessed growing up. Like a lot of boys, time was spent roaming the woods, or riding bicycles to the other side of town. On those journeys he had a keen enough eye to spot the secrets beneath the 20th century surface. Since that first visit to the museum, he's been kind enough to share those memories and take us on several hikes through history.

You likely know the first inhabitants here were the Native Americans, mainly Iroquois, Lenni Lenape Indians. A browse through our 'Headwaters' book even provides a map of places where settlements and camps were known to exist. Many of these have been lost in time, but a boy on his bike knew a *midden* when he saw it. A *midden* is a trash pile, much like the farm and town dumps the European settlers would eventually create. Generations of Native Americans had their own refuse heaps, with broken tools, pottery shards, bones and other debris. While arrowheads and other tools can still be found in farm fields, trash heaps have largely been eroded, developed or otherwise lost to time. Did you know that the pottery shards in our display case came from one of those middens—discovered and donated by the Moffats themselves?

HIKING THROUGH HISTORY, CONTINUED

Those locations still existing and accessible have been part of our hiking quest.

Other hikes have so far taken us to the ruins of an old mill that had first been built when Jefferson and Adams were alive—easy to miss if it hadn't been scouted out by a curious boy fifty years ago. Located along route 516, parts of the fieldstone foundation are still visible, though other bits of its machinery lie under several feet of water. The mill itself operated as a saw mill among other things, burning down in the early 19th century and later rebuilt.

We have also walked along the sluice for that mill to the remnants of the earthwork dam on the opposite side of the road. (A sluice is the manmade trench that channeled water to power the wheel.) The dam is an impressive, long hill constructed to block the normal flow of water—in this case Deep Run-- to form the mill pond and divert water to that sluice. This gave the mill owners and operators the ability to control the flow of water and its speed and power. After two hundred years it is amazing to see what remains of these 'artifacts'. Quite unexpectedly we also discovered evidence of the roads used during its construction and maintenance.

There are many other forgotten sites we plan to explore and document with photos before man or the elements remove them entirely from existence. The former Nike Base, Duhernal Lake or Old Bridge Speedway are places better known to the town, but what of Geick farm, or the fulling mill, or even the horse track? No doubt you have childhood memories, or questions of your own, about the way things were. Perhaps you even have old photo albums full of the township that 'was'. We'd love to have you stop by the museum and share. Or perhaps you may be inspired to have a history hike of your own.



Hold On to Your Hats!—Pat Schuck

Once again, planning is underway for the annual Tea with Mrs. Lincoln. Due to the popularity of this event, we needed to reserve the date far in advance. So SAVE THE DATE, May 20th, 2017 at the Matawan Woman's Club, featuring Judi Cox portraying Mary Todd Lincoln. Watch the newsletter for details as planning continues.

Other Big News: MORE MEN IN MY LIFE! As most of you know, I have been happily married to my husband Don for almost 60 years. Volunteering at the Museum, I meet many other members. Keeping the Friday afternoon spot filled is not always easy. I have been fortunate in the past to have Lee Murphy, Joan Gibson, Carol Kosobucki, Laura Jean Palma, Ann Miller, Joan Beamish, Chris Aboia and Jack Becker as regulars.

Now in the past year, I have been lucky to have Hans Kernast, Phil McGovern, Richard Pucciarelli and Jeff Kagan stepping up to be Friday regulars. So when Don asks where I'm going at noon on Friday, you can guess what I tell him! We'd love to have you join us, even if it's one Friday a year! If you've been a regular in the past and I didn't name you, please come back and remind me of your service. Thanks to all for giving your time and talents to the Historical Society.

In Memoriam

It is with great regret we report the loss of long time member *David Engebretson*, who passed away October 29. Those of us who remember Mr. Engebretson through his most active years recall an energetic and enthusiastic supporter of the society, who served on the board and contributed innumerable items to our collection. He headed up the newsletter for a time, served on committees and volunteered during construction of the gallery, to supervise necessary details from window glass to the display locks and keys.

He gave talks at membership meetings, and provided us with written research done on such far reaching subjects as farm life, cemeteries and even the long forgotten domestic history of housewives sewing clothing from printed fabric flour bags! His interests were varied and his knowledge far-reaching, from the obscure to the mundane.

Even after moving from the area he stayed in touch. During our last contact with him by phone in September, Mr. Engebretson promised to visit the museum, to bring new items for the collection, and a written history of their use. Sadly, his illness prevented that meeting.

I will personally remember his visits and the hours spent in conversation about the Society as well as bits of local lore—including the covert operation of stills he was to document for us in writing. He stayed in touch with my dad, Chet Philbrick, another long-time member, their conversations always about MTHS and history in general.

The Historical Society is extremely grateful for his interest, care and concern throughout the years and we extend our sympathies and prayers to his family and friends.

—Kate Philbrick



ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th

12:00-3:00PM

**Steve/Deb Stanley's home
190 Morganville Road, Matawan
(just a mile from the museum)**

\$15 per person—contact Phil McGovern to RSVP



GOLDEN ROLL DONATIONS

Thank you to all those who donated paper towels, cleaning supplies, toilet paper, and office supplies.

Reminder: each donation will earn one entry into the Volunteer contest. Contest deadline is next June's picnic.

Items always needed: paper towels, toilet paper, printer ink.

thank
you!

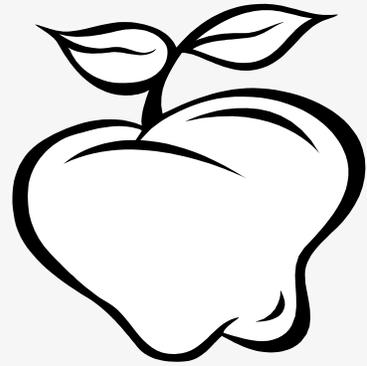
51st Annual Apple Festival

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13th

12:00– 4:00PM

Old Bridge Civic Center

One Old Bridge Plaza



HELP STILL WANTED!

WHAT CAN YOU DO???

**Bake a Pie, Bake some Cookies,
Bake a Cake – all baked goods welcome**

Volunteer to help set up, man tables, clean up

Come to the Apple Festival

Get the word out – bring friends and family

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 2016

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

Board of Directors: at 7:00pm (Held the 1st Monday of the Month unless otherwise noted)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 19 • February 16 • March 15 • April 19 • May 17 • June 21—picnic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July/August—no meeting • September 20 • October 18 • November 15 • December -TBA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4 • February 1 • March 7 • April 4 • May 2 • June 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 4 • August 1 • September 5 • October 3 • November 7 • December 5 |
|---|--|--|--|

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 2016 Membership Form

Annual membership dues for the year 2016 in the Madison Township Historical Society (MTHS) are \$15 for individual, \$25 family, \$10 student

Dues are due by April 1st, 2016.

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"/> 2016 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	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	

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

