



# Timepiece

Volume 51, Issue 1  
January–February–March 2017

## Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Museum Report Slate of Officers	2
Museum Report, contd. Collections on Loan Apple Festival	3
In Memoriam: Anna Rizzo Perno	4
What's in a Name?	5
Current Collection: Smurfs of Old Bridge	6
Membership Form	7

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was looking at some old issues of the "Timepiece" to see what happened in the Society's past. It took me quite a while because there were a lot of interesting articles to read and I only got through a few years. I came up with the idea to reprint some of these articles in future newsletter issues under the title "From Our Archives". I hope that you will enjoy them as I did.

- - - 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 2017*



THE MADISON TWP. HISTORICAL SOCIETY INVITES YOU TO

## TEA WITH MRS. LINCOLN

FEATURING JUDI COX PORTRAYING MARY TODD LINCOLN



SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2017

SAVE THE DATE

## BE SURE TO VISIT OUR NEW, IMPROVED WEBSITE

[www.thomas-warne-museum.com](http://www.thomas-warne-museum.com)

Archived newsletters have been added to the site and other information, too. Thanks to Jeff Kagan for working with our new website host to bring us up to date!



## MADISON TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### OFFICERS (as of March)

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

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### 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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## MUSEUM REPORT—Kate Philbrick

It's been a surprising few months at the museum, with winter throwing a curve every other week! The temps have been unseasonable enough to make you believe spring is right around the corner—followed by snow fall and frigid nights, then a Nor'easter and windy days with rain. I'm sure folks were glad that the thermometer stayed above freezing and we didn't end up with snow. Through all of nature's mood swings, the museum has been open for business and greeting members and casual visitors with more than just a place to get out of the weather.

We started 2017 with a handful of holidays, and in December we were treated to a special display of Christmas trees in all their forms, from the private collection of Pat Shuck. In case you missed it, we had an encore from Pat—a special exhibit for Valentine's Day throughout the month of February, also from her personal collection. It has inspired a contest—Have a Heart—which you may have heard about. We invited the public to participate in counting hearts throughout the museum and not just in the display case. Pat did an excellent job in planting hearts all through the building, some in plain sight and others cleverly concealed. We had some very enthusiastic searchers and are hoping to repeat the contest in the future to encourage visitation.

Our Cold War exhibit has drawn a lot of attention and many visitors have shared their experiences when as children they participated in 'air raid drills' in school. Whether you hid under desks, or against the hallway walls, it was a part of American life for a time. People have told us of bomb shelters their neighbors built, and those who have lived in the township for any length of time certainly have memories of the Nike Base. We'll be taking the display on the road, so to speak, hopefully setting it up at the library and offering a talk on the subject there as well. We'll post exact dates on the website when confirmed.

### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED IN APRIL:

**President:**  
**Chris Aboia**

**Vice-President:**  
**Richard Pucciarelli**

**Vice-President:**  
**Patricia Schuck**

**Corresponding  
Secretary:**

**Phil McGovern**

**Recording Secretary:**  
**Jeffrey Kagan**

**Treasurer:**  
**Rich Kujawinski**

**Director A:**  
**Jack Becker**

## MUSEUM REPORT, CONTINUED

One of my favorite duties as curator has always been helping visitors with research. They have come to the museum from as far away as Australia, tracing family history and looking for specific details concerning specific individuals and events. The visitors from Australia were descendants of Steven Warne, and we were just one of their stops. Speaking of our global reach, we have also had a gentleman share his tour live via video chat with his wife in Malaysia. More recently we have made the acquaintance of Robert Lewis, born and raised in Old Bridge and now living elsewhere, who has started research on the Tice and Brown branches of his family. During his first visit we hardly scratched the surface, and are already looking forward to his return. Sharing our files and records is to me as rewarding as hearing the first person memories and info offered by guests.

Weekends can get busy but there is always room for members to pop by and visit. Several folks have become regulars, so we hope that you will stop in and say hello any time you are in the neighborhood!

### COLLECTIONS ON LOAN

We have been privileged in the past to share the personal collections of members for featured displays. From wedding gowns on loan, to Pat Shuck's recent holiday displays, and Linda McGovern's kind exhibits of dolls, it continues to be a wonderful experience for all involved. I have also arranged complete displays with items of my own.

In every case comments have always been very positive and we would like to continue this practice with an invitation to all members. Do you collect anything you would like to share with visitors and the membership? We'd love to hear from you! Just contact me, Kate, at the museum and we can arrange it!



**Save the Date:** The 52nd Annual Apple Festival will take place on Sunday, November 12, 2017 from 12pm-4pm at the Old Bridge Township Civic Center (Route 516 & Cottrell Road). Bring the kids to this wonderful family event! Home-made apple pies and other delicious treats, holiday crafts & stocking stuffers for sale, re-enactments and great music. FREE ADMISSION.



Vendors: If you'd like to have a booth at this event, please contact Jeff Kagan at 646-246-5598.

# In Memoriam



Anna M. Rizzo Perno  
September 26<sup>th</sup> 1921- August 1<sup>st</sup> 2016

It is with deep sadness that we announce our member Anna Perno has passed away at the age of 94.

Anna and her siblings, Antonette, Sam, Joseph, Carmella, Rose and Marie lived on the 49 acre Rizzo farm. The farm was located on old 516 and Rizzo Lane (later changed to Bennet Rd.) in Old Bridge (Matawan). Anna's Parents were Carmine and Christina Rizzo and they purchased the farm in 1927.

As a young girl, Anna and some of her siblings would walk to the little red school house down the road on Rt. 516 (now the site of the Madison Twp. Historical Society). It is here that Anna proudly graduated 8<sup>th</sup> grade; the only school she ever attended. Later in life she loved telling stories about her time spent there and when we would pass by, she made sure to point it out.

When she joined the Madison Twp. Historical Society, Anna reconnected with some of her old friends and neighbors and loved visiting with them especially at Apple Festival time.

On their farm, the Rizzos grew numerous fruits and vegetables, raised animals and grew feed hay. Since they trucked their produce to the NYC market (as most of the area farmers did), they became known as "truck farmers".

Carmine passed away on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1944 and Christina stayed and farmed until 1952 and then sold the property to Walter Gaub.

Anna married another farmer Jerry A. Perno son of Frank and Rose Perno on November 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 and moved to his family farm "Jerry's Brook Farm" Hwy. 35 Hazlet. It was here they raised five daughters. Anna and Jerry were married for 37 years until Jerry passed away in August of 1979.

For the last 20 years Anna lived with her youngest daughter in Lincroft. She continued growing plants and flowers and her love of cooking for family and friends was one of her favorite activities. In addition every new baby in the family received one of her special handmade afghans.

Anna was a special loving & friendly person and she will be missed by the numerous people whose lives she touched, especially her daughters, sons-in-law, eleven grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

## WHAT'S IN A NAME, PART II—Kate Philbrick

In our last issue we began the subject of exploring place names. We touched on a few local sections and street names within the township, mentioning origins and the early families to which they are connected. While there is a lot to cover on that side of the coin, there is also the matter of personal names that begs a mention.

As South Amboy, and later Madison Township, was settled by immigrants from many countries, we became a melting pot of cultures. Newer arrivals in the 19th century coming from Eastern Europe were regarded as gypsies and sometimes even outcasts. Often surnames were deliberately changed to better blend in but just as often these were changed by accident, by census takers or church officials.

A tour of area cemeteries will show you Lambersons, Lambertsons, and Lambertons—usually the same family though different branches sometimes adopted differing spellings over time. A browse through old journals and ledgers in our collection including voter registration and other government documents frequently show changes and errors annually. It may take some investigation to discover the truth, and it makes for some interesting connections.

In particular is the origin of the Arose family. A look over our earliest property maps will show that the Rose family was long established in the township. As the story goes, there were a pair of male relations with the same name. Since one had the middle initial of A, the different sides of the family were distinguished as being from John Rose or John A. Rose. Easy to see how one side adopted the A permanently.

There is also the interesting matter of first names. There was once quite a spate of boys being named Alonzo, not to mention the sudden popularity of Asbury. A frequent practice in centuries past was to name a child after a celebrity or current hero. One cemetery I have visited in Monmouth County not only has a Napoleon, but a Wellington as well and obviously different families. Makes you wonder about the story behind their lives.

Then there are those given surnames as first names, as well as the tradition of namesakes--being named after a grandparent and other ancestral favorite. Occasionally when involved with details of lineage, one might encounter siblings with the same name, though careful study will usually reveal that the first Robert, Sarah or George passed away young and the name was later given to a successor.

The further back one goes in history, more intriguing details and mysteries are discovered. Perhaps a quick look back at your own family will illustrate similar traditions and connections. After all, Arose by any other name.....

**CURRENT EXHIBIT:**

**Smurf Collection**

**All acquired in Old Bridge, NJ**

**Jeff Kagan**



The year was 1981. I entered the 7th grade at Jonas Salk Middle School in Old Bridge. Each day, I'd eat my lunch with the rest of the kids in the loud lunchroom. Mr. Greene, who headed the athletics department, also ran the Gift Shop, which was tucked away in a small corner of the lunchroom. They sold pens, notebooks, Salk branded t-shirts and socks. However, one new item caught my eye. It was a small blue figurine called a "Smurf". They were created in Germany and were just making their way over to the United States. The Gift Shop sold then for 50 cents each, or \$1.50 for "Super-Smurfs" which came with other paraphernalia (a push cart, a surf board, a hockey net). In addition to the actual smurfs, they also sold large and small mushroom cottages, and for any serious collector looking to complete their Smurfvillage, a large windmill in the shape of a tree for the low price of \$17.

Each week I'd get my \$2 allowance and buy one or two Smurfs, always looking for new ones, which were coming in every few weeks. When I turned 14, I got my "working papers" and my first job, which was putting together the Sunday newspapers at the Old Bridge Pharmacy. I was so happy to discover that they also carried Smurfs. More than half of my weekly pay went right back to the pharmacy in exchange for the latest blue creatures, including the new holiday Smurfs!

After I left Salk and moved on to Madison Central High School, I would have my brother (who was 2 years behind me) go to the Gift Shop each week and buy me the new Smurfs. The entire collection once sat on a 5x5 piece of painted green plywood in my 10x10 bedroom. I was always angry with my cat Ginger who'd jump up there and cause a "Smurfquake", making me spend 20-30 minutes putting them all back on their feet.

As I grew up, I moved on to more mature collectibles, and my Smurf collection would spend the next 25 years locked away in cardboard boxes in the attic. I am proud to have a place to display them at the Thomas Warne Museum as they claim their place in the history of Old Bridge and Madison Township.

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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*

## **2017**

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

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*

### **2017 Membership Form**

Annual membership dues for the year 2017 in the Madison Township Historical Society (MTHS) are \$15 for individual, \$25 family, \$10 student

**Dues are due by April 1st, 2017.**

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"/> 2017 Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member
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*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; margin: 0 auto;"></div>	

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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](http://www.thomas-warne-museum.com)  
and Join Us on Facebook

**Madison Township Historical Society**  
**4216 Route 516**  
**Matawan, NJ 07747**

