

The Official Newsletter of the Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society

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Timepiece

T H O M A S W A R N E M U S E U M & L I B R A R Y

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

President's Message

Thank you all for coming to the Apple Festival. It was a great success. The children were so excited to find their art work displayed. We sold out all our delicious baked goods. A thanks to our workers, bakers, vendors, ROTC, disk jockey and to the council members, Mayor and everyone else who came to support us. Good Job, Jeff!

Our Christmas Party will be December 8th.

Happy Holidays.

Chris Aboia

M A D I S O N T O W N S H I P 1 5 0 Y E A R A N N I V E R S A R Y 1 8 6 9 - 2 0 1 9

Madison Township which was renamed Old Bridge Township in 1976 will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Tuesday March 12, 2019. We hope that our town residents will help us recognize this important milestone in our township's history. We are looking for ideas and partners for a possible celebration.

Meeting Calendar

- Regular Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.
- Board of Directors Meetings: 1st Monday of the month at 7:00pm unless otherwise noted.
- See page 7 for schedule of meetings for 2019

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MADISON-OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Officers:

President: Chris Aboia

1st Vice President: Richard Pucciarelli

2nd Vice President: Patricia Schuck

Recording Secretary: Jeffrey Kagan

Corresponding Secretary: Phil McGovern

Treasurer: Richard J. Kujawinski

Director A: Jack Becker

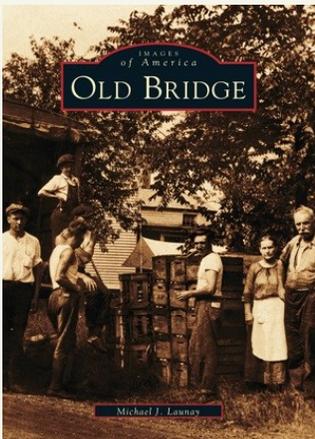
Director B: Jerry DeLellis

Director C: Leona Murphy



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OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP BOOK



We have copies of Images of America Old Bridge by Michael J. Launay. This is in addition to our own 'At the Headwaters of Cheesequake Creek' book. For those members wishing a copy they may be obtained at the museum during regular business hours. The suggested donation for a copy of the Images book for our members is \$15 which is a discount off the cover price of \$21.99. It makes a great gift!

The Headwaters book will be continued to be available for a donation of \$10 for members and non members alike.

M T H S is a 5 0 1 c (3) tax deductible charity. All donations and dues are fully deductible as per IRS regulations. Please remember us by leaving a legacy gift and help make a difference by supporting our mission to preserve the history of Madison-Old Bridge Township.

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



*FROM THE ARCHIVES
SOCIETY'S BEGINNINGS*

This year is the 54th anniversary of the founding of the Madison Township Historical Society. Since many of our current members were not present at its founding, a look back at the society's beginnings may be appropriate at this time. The society actually began as a PTA project. Mildred Low was vice president of the Whited Brown School PTA. The school has since been replaced by the Cheesequake School. Mildred proposed as historic exhibit to celebrate the 300th birthday of the State of New Jersey in 1964. Members of the PTA borrowed historic articles from township residents who had them in their attics for years. The exhibit was a great success, and was recognized by the Middlesex County Teacher's Association.

The historic articles were returned to the owners and Mrs. Low asked them if they would be interested in establishing a local historical museum and would consider donating their articles to such a museum. Some of the articles were a copy of an 1851 map of the township, Victorian clothing, records of the Cheesequake church, a stone mortar and pestle, Indian arrowheads, a butter press, old receipts, tax bills and a scalding pot. The idea created enthusiasm and so was born the Madison Township Historical Society.

Some of the interested people were: John Partridge, Mildred Low, Alvia Martin, Alice Kerr, Ruth Padish, Marie Romano, Wm. Holden, Olga Becker, Celeste Wenzel, Mary Brown, Berta Walling, Marie Gaub, Lenore Pinoss, Margaret Schulmeister, Harriet Chamberlain, Al Anslinger.

Continued next page

*FROM THE ARCHIVES
SOCIETY'S BEGINNINGS
CONTINUED*

Many of the original members trace their ancestry to the families that first settled Old Bridge. Today the Society is attracting many people who are simply interested in history. The Society was actually incorporated in 1965 and asked the Board of Education for either the Morristown School or the Cedar Grove School for their museum. At the time Lorna Kerr's father, William Kerr, was president of the Board of Education which leased the then unused Cedar Gove School to the Society for \$1 per year. Many township residents who had attended the Cedar Grove School donated their painting and repair services to make the building ready for use as a museum. In the mean time, the historic articles were stored in homes and early meetings were held in various township schools until the building was ready for use. Their meetings were held in the Cedar Grove School.

When Madison Township celebrated its 100 birthday in 1969 the school was legally turned over to the Historical Society. The building was named for Thomas Warne, one of the 24 East Jersey Proprietors. Many of the visitors to the museum today are researching the history of the township for high school or college projects, or are tracing family genealogies.

From the germ of an idea in one person's mind, the Madison Township Historical Society has grown into the guardian of the Township's history which is fast disappearing in this era of fast development, Known throughout the US, our Museum is a respected center of historical research.

Madison Township Historical Society notes by Mildred Low

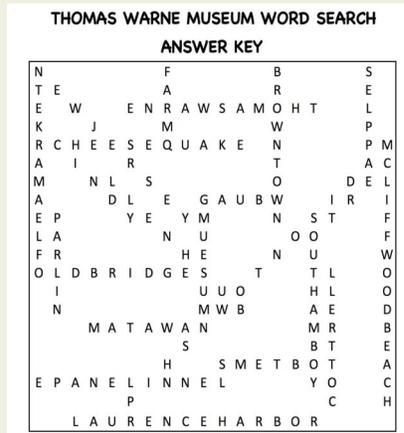
My name is Mildred Low. I founded the Thomas Warne Museum. I went to the Board of Education meeting to get the right to use it. I was told at that meeting there was a clause in the deed that states the building must be used for educational purposes or it will returned to the prior legal owners. Mr. Kerr and Carol Kosabucki were board members at the time. The museum is called Thomas Warne because at the beginning of New Jersey history states there were proprietors that lived, owned and controlled the territory.

Thomas Warne was the only proprietor that lived here, his home was on Lambertson Road.

John Partridge was the one who painted the school red.

We used the coal shed as a thrift shop, selling clothes, dishes etc. The money was used to support the museum.

The Warne family living at the time in Matawan gave money to help. We used that money to help run the museum.



OUR MISSION

We the members of the Madison-Old Bridge Historical Society, pledge to discover, preserve, protect and pass on the history of Old Bridge Township. (Formerly Madison Township) Its properties, families, and their lives for future generations.

Construction Pictures



**2019 Schedule
Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society**

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

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

January- No Meeting
February- No Meeting
March 19
April 16
May 21
June 18 -picnic

July-No Meeting
August- No Meeting
September 17
October 15
November 19
December - TBA

January 7
February 4
March 4
April 1
May 6
June 3

July 8
August 5
September 9
October 7
November 4
December 2

Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society 2019 Membership Form
Annual Membership dues for the year 2019 in the Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society (MTHS) are \$15 for individual, \$25 family, \$10 Student

Dues are due by April 1, 2019

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 a check or money order (Please Do Not Mail Cash) payable to: "Madison Township Historical Society" (memo note: "Membership")

Mail to: Membership Committee
Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society
4216 Route 516
Matawan, NJ 07747-7032

Please Print

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: (Please Print Clearly) _____

Special Interests or Hobbies _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter via Email? Yes No

Would you like to be a MOBTHS committee volunteer? Yes No

Would you like to be a Museum Volunteer? Yes No

Check one below:

2019 Renewal

New Member

For Office Use:			
Cash	Check/MO#	Amount Paid	Receipt

THOMAS WARNE MUSEUM & LIBRARY



"The Little Red School House" across from 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.

The Cedar Grove School is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Home of the Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society.

Open to the Public

Monday-Friday-By Appointment Only

Saturday & Sunday Noon-4PM

Phone: 732-566-2108

Email: info@thomas-warne-museum.com

Visit Our Web Site:

www.thomas-warne-museum.com

And Join Us on our Facebook page.

MADISON-OLD
BRIDGE TOWNSHIP
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