

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

thomas-warne-museum.com

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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

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

As I write this our parking lot is finally paved. This necessary improvement was sorely needed for our parking lot, members and our visitors. Also, we are in the process of acquiring the school bells from the recently closed Cheesequake School and the long closed Brown-town School as well. We hope to have the Cheesequake School Bell mounted and on display in our parking lot in the near future. It is a fitting addition to our collection and preserves for all the connection of the past town's history to the Cheesequake School.

Richard

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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

We kicked off the 150th Anniversary at the museum on March 23, 2019. Look for banners and posters throughout the town for events that have been planned. Also look for our "Did You Know?" series on OBTV (15) and FIOS (22). Let's Celebrate Old Bridge! Oldbridge.com/ob150

MADISON-OLD BRIDGE TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

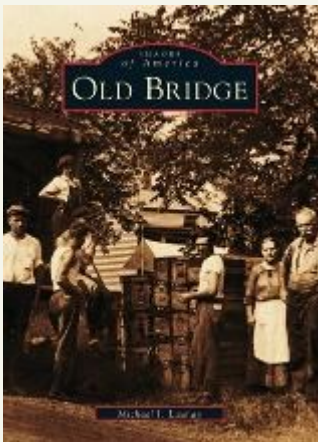
Officers:

- President: Richard Pucciarelli
- 1st Vice President: Chris Aboia
- 2nd Vice President: Carol Sicinski
- 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 501c(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



PUBLIC REMARKS AT THE 150TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
BY RICHARD PUCCIARELLI

Welcome everyone to the Thomas Warne Museum & Library and the Cedar Grove School. The Madison-Old Bridge Township Historical Society welcomes you and our name now reflects the old & the new history of our town. Our Cedar Grove School is on the NJ State Register of Historic Sites and is also on the National Register of Historic Sites.

On March 2, 1869 the 22nd Governor of the State of NJ, Theodore Fitz Randolph approved Chapter 72, Laws of 1869: "An Act to create from the Township of South Amboy, in the County of Middlesex, a new township, to be called the Township of Madison." And so the history of our town begins and our divorce from South Amboy Township is finalized on that date. The Matawan Journal newspaper will begin publishing 6 months later that same year.

The first meeting of the new township council takes place at the Cheesequake Inn on the site today which is now occupied by the Pine Tavern in what was known as Jacksonville in 1869.

Mr Robert L Skillman who owned the Cheesequake Inn will be reimbursed \$6 for that day's expenses and \$9 for dinners and suppers of judges and the clerk of town getting Madison Township ready.

In 1964, the MTHS will be incorporated and the history of our historical society begins and continues to serve the Old Bridge community today.

Looking back at the March 1, 1969 issue of the Madison-American newspaper which was published out of Laurence Harbor the Madison Township Centennial Celebration events were announced for "Madison Township Day".

REMARKS MADE AT THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
BY RICHARD PUCCIARELLI

Events that were planned for the centennial were a skit by the local councilmen reenacting the first meeting of the township council on March 12, 1869. It was presented at a free square dance held at St. Bernadette Church in Madison Park. The township emblem winner with the Centennial slogan of "Madison Township— A Glorious Future-An Historical Part" with the new municipal seal designed by two MTHS members: Alva Martin & Marion Smith-Lambertson. Other events included a parade, queen contest and Madison Township Day at Freehold Race Track.

And the deed to the Cedar Grove School was given to the historical society by the Board of Education to celebrate the town's 100th anniversary! Madison Township name changed to Old Bridge Township in 1976, so let us now honor our town's historical past with events and remembrances. And so as we embark on the 150th anniversary of our town let us, Celebrate Old Bridge!

Tea with Mrs. Lincoln -Pat Schuck

Ten years ago we had our first Tea with Mary Todd Lincoln. We've hosted various special teas throughout the years. It takes the generosity and support of our guests, members and local merchants to make it a successful fund raiser. At this time I'm passing the TEA POT to Linda McGovern. Please give her all the cooperation you've given me. Hope to see you at the TEA next year. It's been my pleasure to serve you.

My Internship at TWM by Daniel Carton

This summer I had the pleasure and the honor to intern at the Thomas Warne Museum. As a Rutgers' student studying History, this internship gave me not only the hours needed for a certificate in Public History but more importantly it exposed me to the dedication and commitment of the museum's volunteers. Through their hard work and enthusiasm for the community I was able to experience first hand the inner workings of a small historical museum that is working hard to maintain and share their unique story. As a Middletown resident I did not know much about the area that the Thomas Warne Museum serves and remembers. Along the way though I was able to meet community members who opened my eyes to not only the local history but their own personal narratives. It seemed that everyone who came through the doors had some type of a connection to the building. It was amazing to see how these current or past residents remembered their roots in reference to the one room schoolhouse that the museum calls home.

A small museum faces many challenges their larger counterparts most likely do not. During my time at the museum I aided in archiving different materials such as cataloguing the local Madison America Newspaper, work that provided me a glimpse into the workings of an active historical site. I was able to see some of the hardships and difficulties a small, volunteer driven institution such as the Thomas Warne Museum must deal with first hand. Through my hours there I was rewarded with the knowledge that I was part of something worthwhile. I can only say that I implore the Old Bridge community to get the word out. History if it is going to have an impact must be studied, protected and embraced, all of which I felt at the Thomas Warne Museum.

Old Bridge became my home in June 2017. Shortly after moving here, my granddaughter & I attended a volunteer fair held at the public library. Since I had been a volunteer for various organizations most of my life. I knew I should check it out.

On that day, I met Chris and Rich from the Thomas Warne Museum. We hit it off, and I became a member of the Madison Township Historical Society. This also gave me the opportunity to be a regular volunteer at the museum, along with my teenage grandchildren, Connor and Riley.

Timing is everything, and I discovered that I came in at a time of restoration. Volunteers labored to clear the overgrowth from the property which brought the schoolhouse out of hiding. A beautiful new sign has replaced the old one on Route 516. The buildings have been painted on the exterior and the interior. Additionally, the wood floor has been refinished. The crowing glory is the cedar shake roof. All this work has been done thanks to the generous donation from the Jane Staeger estate.

The society was formed by very dedicated women and continues to be run by more local men and women who give generously of their time and talents.

Stop by one weekend if you are interested in local history. You may choose to explore genealogy or look through our vintage post card collection. You can step back in time as you visit the schoolhouse.

New volunteers are always needed. And appreciated. Fresh ideas for displays, events and fundraisers are welcome. Seasonal help is needed for landscaping and gardening. Indoors, there is general clean up, organizing and occasionally some heavy lifting. If you have library or filing skills, they are helpful as well.

Just lending an hour of your time or giving a small donation can make a big difference.

Hope to see you soon!

By Carol Sicinski

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.

**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 in the National Register of Historic Places and the State of NJ 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:

thomas-warne-museum.com

And Join Us on our Facebook page.

MADISON-OLD
BRIDGE TOWNSHIP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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MATAWAN, NJ
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