

Friendship School - Circa 1830

S.H.O.U.T.

SAFEKEEPING THE HERITAGE OF UPPER TOWNSHIP

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF UPPER TOWNSHIP



Rooted in the Past - Enjoyed in the Present - Preserved for the Future

Volume 28 No. 1

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Upper Twp. Historical Society - Briefs and Updates

The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp. (HPSUT) Board of Trustees addressed a number of topics during this past Summer that resulted in several changes and updates that are shared here:

Covid-19 Virus Year Artifact for Upper Twp.: Today is tomorrow's history. The HPSUT continues to gather artifacts as part of our new story-gathering project called "The Covid-19 Virus Year" 2020 in Upper Township. Even though we are no longer in the stay at home phase and businesses are reopening, the virus remains an impactful part of all of our lives and examples need to be archived for future reference. HPSUT hopes to gather photos as well as written experience stories / journal entries as Covid-19 artifacts that capture the time we all were spending at home during these trying weeks. The link to submit your

photo or written story > <https://forms.gle/Js6wLmxy-hLYH8RM89>

Train Station Sign:

A new informational sign has been installed at the Tuckahoe Train Station as part of a grant obtained by the HPSUT.

Text and photos cover the early days of railroading in our portion of northern Cape May County and the pivotal role of the Tuckahoe Station. The Station sign photos, including some



The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township received a special Certificate of Achievement as a 2020 Cape May County Sponsorship Recipient. The Freeholder Sponsorship, presented by Freeholder Jeffery Pierson on Aug. 28, 2020 included funding for upgrading acquisition software and training for the Society. Pictured, from left, Carol Williams, HPSUT President; HPSUT Trustees Ralph Cooper; Linda Leonard; Barbara Horan; and Jeffrey Pierson, Cape May Co. Freeholder. ##



New Historical Sign for Tuckahoe Train Station. Upper Twp. Public Works personnel, from left, Barbara Grund and Dave Pennello installing the informational sign. - Photo by Robert Holden, HPSUT Historian

that appeared in the book Upper Township and Its Ten Villages, were obtained / selected, and text developed, by Robert Holden and Barbara Horan, members of the HPSUT Board.

See sign photo - page 7. The support for the sign project was obtained from the New Jersey Historical Commission grant funding, administered by the Cape May County Culture and Heritage Commission. The

HPSUT Collects Local Flooding Photos for Coastal Coalition Project

Sunny day flooding as well as major storm surges are all part of life here at the Shore in Cape May County.

The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township (HPSUT) and other historical groups in Cape May County are partnering with the New Jersey Coastal Coalition to collect flooding photos to raise awareness about the problem.

If you have these types of high-water event photos, please consider sharing them. For Upper Twp., the HPSUT has established a portal to collect the photo

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Membership Reminder - If you have not renewed for 2020 see Page 8 Coupon

HPSUT - Briefs and Updates

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contractor for the project was found through references obtained from the CMC Small Museums Round Table group.

Bus Trip: The Hudson Valley bus trip, sponsored by the HPSUT as an annual fundraiser, has been canceled for this year. The guided trip to historic locations

in the Hudson Valley region of upstate New York was postponed in April due to concerns about Covid-19 and the re-scheduled Sept. dates have now also been scratched for the same reasons. The newly planned bus trip dates are now set for April 17-18, 2021.

Applefest: The HPSUT has announced that the 2020 AppleFest in October has been cancelled. The Board made its decision related to Covid-19 health concerns, as well as new regulations for holding public events and the anticipation of the usual volunteer-pool being from high-risk (seniors) categories.

Handy Person: In June 2020, the HPSUT "Handyperson" Volunteer psa release was distributed (and published) with the local media weeklies and posted on the Society website and Facebook page. While there were several responses, as of yet, no volunteer has committed to helping. Email your information to up-pertwphistory@yahoo.com or call our messaging service at (609) 390.5656 and a volunteer will contact you.

Book Sales: With the reopening of Businesses in Upper Township, the sales of our book [Upper Township and Its Ten Villages by Robert Holden](#) are expected to resume. Ironically, during the 3-month quarantine / stay-at-home orders this Spring, book sales actually continued at the Marmora Hardware store, which remained open as an essential business. Holden reports that Marmora Hardware has sold over 40 copies of the book and is our significant literary outlet for the Township.

TheClio.com: The HPSUT pages on the Clio website platform continue to gain additional views and interest. Visit our pages: Tuckahoe Station <https://theclio.com/entry/100868> Gandy Farmstead <https://theclio.com/entry/100872> Friendship School <https://theclio.com/entry/102308>

Fall Programs: Planning is underway and the upcoming HPSUT Fall 2020 programs will be announced soon.

Building & Grounds Status: Board members continue periodic physical checks on our three Historic buildings and sites in Upper Twp. ##

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High Water / Flooding Photos Project

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files and information to assist in the project.

Pictures of back bay flooding due to King Tides or full moon and nor'easters are welcome. If your family has photos of the major Atlantic storms over the years, we would like to add them to the collection as well.

Pictures can be submitted with a Google form at this link

> <https://bit.ly/FloodingPhotos>

When you submit the picture, please include any relevant information along with your name and phone # in case there are follow-up questions. Please include the date the photo was taken.

In addition to the Strathmere neighborhoods, photos are being sought for the Tuckahoe River, Beesley's Point and Cedar Creek areas of Upper Township.

Links:

High Water / Flooding Photos Project > <https://bit.ly/FloodingPhotos>

NJ Coastal Coalition > <https://www.njcoastalcoalition.com/>
Cape History Coalition > <https://capehistorycoalition.wordpress.com/>
See example photo on **Page 8** of roadway high water in front of Strathmere Fire Hall on Oct. 27, 2018, 10 am. ##



Now over 6-months into the Covid-19 Pandemic and cautionary signs throughout the Township of Upper continue call for vigilance on the part of residents and visitors. ##

President's Column

Pandemic and Other Thoughts

Carol Williams, President,

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

This certainly has been a warm, hazy and wet summer season with a few quirks, namely, a hail storm, a tropical storm and a pandemic. I suffered some small damage from the hail storm and the tropical storm...the loss of a garden umbrella and a few trees; but from the pandemic, a way of life to which I had become accustomed.

I am sure many of you can relate to this. I miss my family from near and far away, lunch dates with friends, my book group discussions, our monthly meetings and events, my walks on the boardwalk, my incidental shopping and especially our dining out. My husband and I stay close to home. We are enjoying new authors and new television shows featuring British characters.

My dragonflies are back and my garden is rife with black swallowtail butterflies and house wrens. One finds pleasure in the symmetry of nature, but I suppose that is enough of my musings...

Although we can not meet in person to explore our sites, they are available to you on the web. We encourage you to visit them there. Take your children and grandchildren on a virtual field trip.

Due to the pandemic, we have cancelled our fall fests and our meeting schedule is being configured to enable you to attend using a Zoom application which you will hear about later in this newsletter.. When it is permissible to resume open gatherings and meetings, we will send word out to the papers and

through our Facebook page.

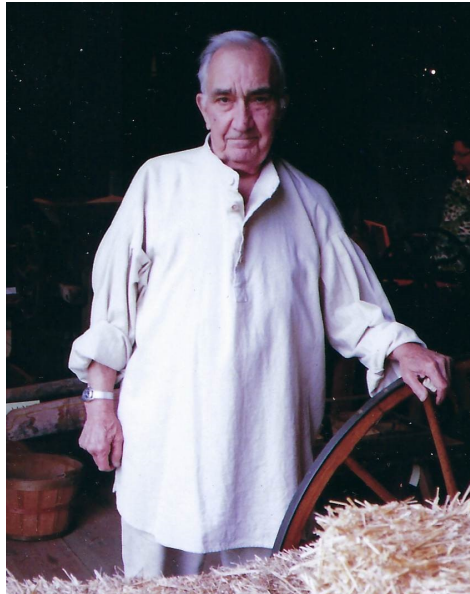
Good News:

We have applied for and been awarded a Cape May County Arts and Culture Freeholder Sponsorship Grant and are using the monies to upgrade our acquisition software and receive training on its use.

Our Township's Dept. of Public Works has done a very fine job of keeping our three properties in good shape during these strange times.

Sad News:

It is with a heavy heart that I share the loss of two long-time friends and mem-

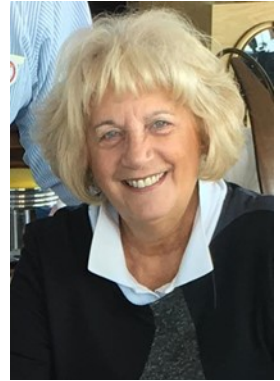


Doug Longenecker

bers of our Historical Society; Maxine Schmidt and Doug Longenecker.

Both of these fine people have served as board members during my tenure as your

board president over the years. They worked tirelessly for the society filling many positions when they could and I will never forget their help in making so many of our events a success.



Maxine will be remembered for her lovely laugh and warm smile and for always helping out at the festivals as a docent. She served as the board's corresponding secretary and a trustee for many years.

Doug will be remembered for his untiring service as Stationmaster at the Train Station during the Santa Express, cooking hotdogs at our festivals, and his service as president, vice president and trustee of our society for too many years to count. His love of all things to do with trains and the military will always be remembered.

I can't put it any better than this... As Gustave Flaubert once said, "A friend of you who dies, it's something of you who dies."

Please stay safe and stay healthy.
Carol
##



Milestone date on July 8, 2020 with the official opening of the Great Egg Harbor Shared Use Pathway for walking and biking along the Garden State Parkway Bridge between Upper Twp. and Somers Point. The 1.5 mile trip takes 45 minutes to walk and is a 10 minute bike ride one way. ##



A special thank you to Marmora Hardware.

As of August 2020 they are one of top selling locations for our Historical Society's book "Upper Township and Its Ten Villages".

Stop by Marmora Hardware and pick up your copy. All proceeds from book sales support the Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township. ##

1846 Petersburg Tax Ledger

A "Translation" from the old handwriting

This assessment made between the twentieth day of June and the twentieth day of August in the yr. 1846.

To calculate this duplicate (the certainties) are as follows

	Number	Cents	
Horses	158	@ .05 *	\$ 7.90
Cattle	723	@ .02	\$14.46
Single Men	74	@ .29	\$21.46
Householders	256	@ .14	\$35.84
Stores	7 1/2	@ .40	\$3.00
Mills	5	@ .15	\$.75
Waggons & Dearborns	52		
		@ .10	\$5.20
Sulkeys	7	@ .04	\$.28
Stage	1	= .25	\$.25

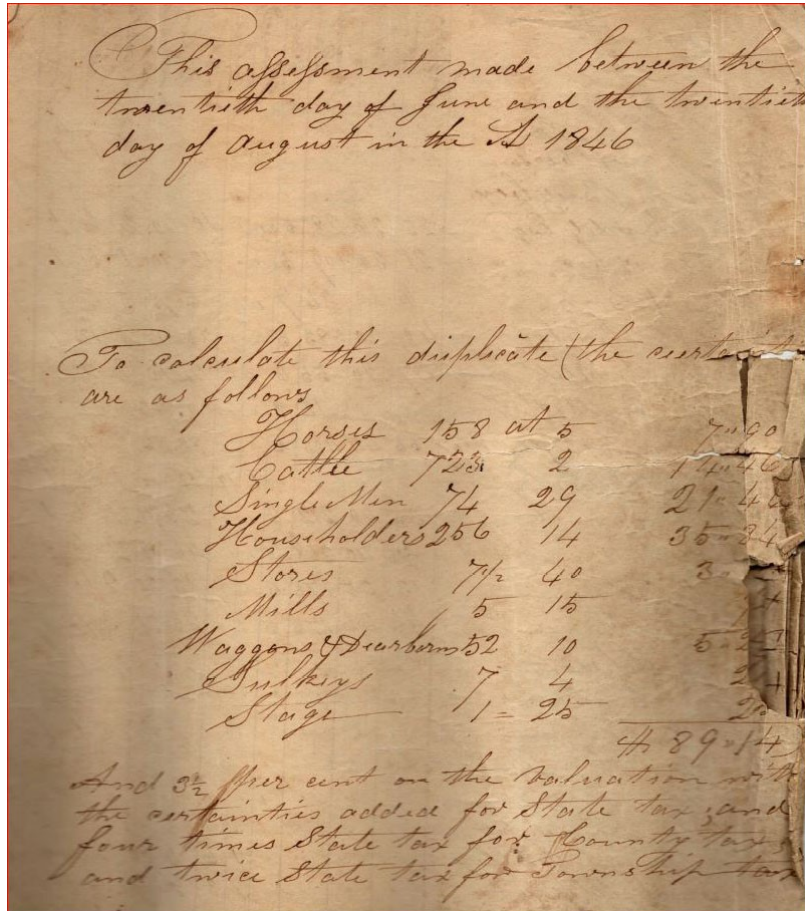
Total - \$89.14

* (This column means cents.)

(Note spelling difference of Wagons, and a Dearborn is a small flat 4 wheeled wagon pulled by a single horse.)

And 3 1/2 per cent on the valuation with the certainties added for state tax; and four times State tax for County tax; and twice State tax for Township tax.

Note: A dollar in 1846 is worth about \$33.50 in 2020.



Page 1st

	Improved Land	Value	Manufacturing Land	Value	Manufacturing	Total Value to Pay	per cent	Stores	Cattle	Manufacturing
Charles Adams	25	36	28	5	10	40	2	6	1	
Samuel Alberson									1	1
William Buzbey										
John Budd Esq	21	35	109	5	12	90	1	5	9	
John Buzbey	6	60	34	7	5	98	3	1		
William Boon	40	40	388	5	35	15	1	12	1	
Daniel Bailey	37	40	55	6	14	10	2	2	1	
James Budd										
Joseph Bassett Esq				12	8		96			
James Brassey Esq	56	24	193	5	23	35	2	11	1	
Thomas Brassey Esq					1	12	12	1	2	1
Edw Butnelt	35	40	212	6	2	672	1	5	1	
Constantine Blackman	75	40	268	6	4	603	2	6	1	
Leah Baner	13	35	175	5	13	30	3	4	1	
John Baner	46	36	175	5	25	31	3	4	1	
Benjamin Baner										
Joseph Baner										
Samuel Baner										
George Baner										
John Baner Esq										
Jonathan C. Baner					1	6	6	00		
George Butler					1	3	3	00		
Harris Burr										
	362		2644	2	295	62	18	66		



Grape arbor at HPSUT's Gandy Farmstead.

Historian's Column

Donated 1846 Ledger reveals wealth of details

Robert Holden, Historian

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

The HPSUT has received several very interesting objects during the pandemic!

The first one I'll write about is a notebook version (copy?) of the, 1846 Petersburg Tax Ledger.

This is a fascinating report of every single resident in Petersburg at this time, listing who owed what in taxes based on their ownership of the following (in order):

Improved Land, Value of land, Unimproved land, Value of that land, Houses and Lots, Value of those, Total Value of property and homes, Horses, Cattle, Households, Single Men, Stores, Mills, Covered Waggon (sic) & Dearborns (small flat bottom shallow wagon pulled by a single horse), Sulkeys, Dogs, Dog tax, Amount of Certainties, State Tax, County Tax, Township Tax, Aggregate.

Original scanned pages and their translation accompany this story.

The entries spanned two open pages.

The Ledger was complete but there is no record of who actually drew up this Tax Ledger and for what reason. Was it a copy, or actually the original?

The cover (if there was one) is missing from the Ledger.

The Ledger begins with the assessment page giving the details of the tax rate etc. It then goes right into page 1- (spread when opened) to reveal the complete list across of things for which one can be taxed.

Almost all names are in alphabetical order (there are a few errors) so it's easy to find the citizen/ taxpayer.

This ledger was found by former Upper Township resident, Fred Armand who rescued it from the trash over 20 years ago and then sent it to Board member, Barb Horan, along with a few deeds to property in the Killdeer area of Petersburg across from the Petersburg Methodist Church, once owned by the man's family. These date to the 1920's.

This Tax Ledger has immediately become a prized object because it chronicles the ownership of many very important citizens of Upper Township from over 170 years ago!

Anyone who wishes to know if their ancestor is listed in the ledger, please contact me and I'd be happy to share it with you and I'll even send you (via email) a scanned page(s) of the Ledger!

This is a treasure trove of important information from Upper Township's past.

Our next set of objects came to us from a woman in Virginia who found these objects in her garage and sent them to us. How she found us is a mystery. I think she looked for an Upper Township history society on Facebook!

The objects sent to us were:

- An 1863 edition of Mitchell's World Atlas which once belonged to a young 17-year-old Ashmead Beesley. Same Beesley family of Beesley's Point fame. It is surmised that he used this in high school.
- Two pages from the Beesley family bible noting: (a.) the marriage of Thomas Beesley Jr. of Beesley's Point to Catherine A. Ashmead of Philadelphia on January 23rd, 1844. (Note: This could be the daughter of the Mr. Ashmead who later established one of the first general stores in Upper Township in Beesley's Point. See book, *Upper Township and Its Ten Villages* for photo.) (b.) the birth of Ashmead in 1847, and his death on Feb. 20th, 1863.
- (c.) The death dates of Thomas Beesley (October 16th, 1877) He was 63 years old. and the death of his wife, Catherine on July 28th, 1890. She was 90 years old!
- A letter from Remington Corson, the Secretary of the Celestial Lodge (of the Masons?) announcing the death of Thomas Beesley and the great regrets that his Cannon Lodge has of his passing.

I am very curious as to why/how Ashmead Beesley died, since he was so young. (Was it natural causes? Disease? Injury? Etc.) The fact that we have his class Atlas, published in the year of his death is amazing. It was undoubtedly used for a very short time in his high school class (a Geography class?) Geography back then was a required course! Sigh!

The atlas itself is in terrible condition, but upon examination, indicates that the research to comprise the atlas was done ten years prior. Maps of the US reflect

the Compromise of 1850, but no examination of the Civil War and the Northern & Southern states. In fact, the atlas states at the bottom of the opening page that it was entered in the year 1852 for approval and then publication.

Ashmead Beesley's name is written in pencil on the second page. There are also pencil outlines around countries in South America. (Part of a tracing for a project about countries in South America?)

The bible pages were taken out of the front of the bible by the woman because as she explained to me in an email, it was far too damaged by time and water, and so the rest of the book was thrown away. It is a blessing that she had the forethought to remove these undamaged family record pages!

When we first saw the date of the atlas and Ashmead's birth and death years, I at first surmised that Ashmead was killed in the Civil War. I immediately contacted our past president, Mike Houdart, who has a list of Cape May County Civil War veterans and he informed me there is no Ashmead Beesley listed as a Cape May County Civil War veteran.

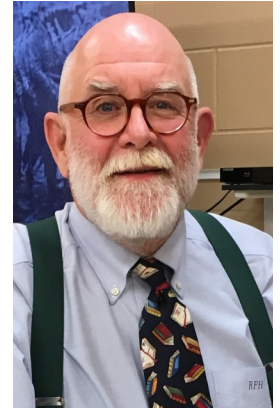
With this information, I then surmised that the young man died prematurely from some sort of health issue such as dysentery, typhoid fever, malaria, or even tuberculosis which was prevalent at the time.

Many children died of disease in the early to mid-eighteenth century.

It is not at all unusual for children even as old as 17 to die from whatever was going around in those days. This was the reason that many families had so many children.

Children were their current workforce and future security with many parents depending on them in old age.

##



Somers Point Historical Society - Museum Open House



Somers Point Historical Society - Museum Open House – Saturday, Aug.15, 2020.

The newly renovated museum and the new Maritime exhibits and large ship models were on display with cool air-conditioning for a summer Saturday. Outside, on the grounds of the Museum and City Hall, a duck decoy presenter carved and explain his craft and a musician performed sea shanties and folk songs to entertain the visitors. Several local history groups were included at the event with special information tables. In addition to the ship model displays, museum visitors were briefed on the extensive filing system

Somers Point Historical Society

745 Shore Road, Somers Point, NJ 08244
609-927-2900

- <http://www.somerspointhistory.org>
- <http://www.somerspointhistory.org/heritage-tourism.html> | <http://www.somerspointhistory.org/local-research-topics.html>
- <https://visitsomerspoint.com/somers-point-history>

in archival boxes that is indexed and maintained by SP Historical Society volunteers. All NJ Covid-19 regulations, with the wearing of masks and social distancing, were observed outdoors as well as in the museum. ##

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

Web: www.UpperTwpHistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/UpperTwpHistory

Twitter: [http://Twitter.com/History_Upper](https://twitter.com/History_Upper)

Email: UpperTwpHistory@Yahoo.com

Phone: (609) 390.5656 (Please leave a message)

The Historical Preservation Society of Upper Twp.

(HPSUT), P.O. Box 658, Marmora, NJ 08223-0658

Located in northern Cape May County, New Jersey



Tour of Renovated Train Car based at Tuckahoe Junction: On Aug. 28th, HPSUT and CMC officials visited Paul Mulligan's restoration project of his own train car - 1927 Pullman Parlor car that served four decades in NY - Phil "clocker service." The MINERAL SPRING was based in Philadelphia and may have had AC assignments. Pictured, from left, Carol Williams, HPSUT President; Elizabeth Appleyard Bakley, Cape May County Dept of Tourism | Culture & Heritage, Paul Mulligan; and Jeffrey Pierson, Cape May Co. Freeholder. As reported in the Fall 2018 edition of the SHOUT, Paul is still searching for any photos of this car in service. His email is pjmulligan@comcast.net ##

Historical Society High Water / Flooding Photos Project



The HPSUT is collecting High Water / Flooding photos, both historical and current. See story on Page One. In addition to the Strathmere neighborhoods, photos are being sought for the Tuckahoe River, Beesley's Point and Cedar Creek areas of Upper Township. Link to > <https://bit.ly/FloodingPhotos>

Upper Twp. Historical Society - Fall - 2020 - Newsletter

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Unless Otherwise Noted,
SHOUT Newsletter Photos By

Ralph Cooper, HPSUT Bd. Member / Publicity Chair



Upper Twp. Historical Society's Gandy Farmstead – Status Photo – 25 Aug. 2020

File: SHOUT Newsletter Fall 2020_v1.0_05Sep2020.pub

Historical Preservation Society of Upper Township

P.O. Box 658

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The Gandy House - c. 1815