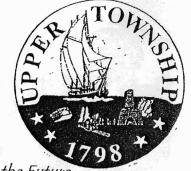


S.H.O.U.T.

SAFEKEEPING THE HERITAGE OF UPPER TOWNSHIP

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF UPPER TOWNSHIP



Friendship School - Circa 1830

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

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President's Memo

August 2010

As the lazy, very warm days of summer begin to turn cooler, I look forward to a new season of activities. So far this year we have seen the staging of our very successful Strawberry Festival (thanks to Anne Snyder and all those members who contributed time and energy), a very warmly received open house tour of the Gandy Farmstead held in conjunction with the County Museum, an open house scheduled at the Train Station showcasing the Station itself and a tour of the trains on our property (thanks to Tony Macrie) and a series of very interesting and informative meetings (thanks to Dan Clark).

One of our on-going new projects is to make the Gandy Farmstead a learning experience for our fourth grade students. We have begun putting together a trunk of odds and ends that relate to the farmstead's heyday and sharing it with fourth graders as a prelude to visiting. We are hoping that you might suggest or have an interesting item that we could put into this trunk inviting the children to go on an archeological trunk treasure hunt. You might consider loaning some interesting artifact/s for the trunk. Articles as simple as small farm implements, candle and butter molds, hog scrapers, jelly sieves, wool carders or spindles, are what we are looking for. We will ask our students to do the job of an experimental archeologist and try to discover the use of these objects before they see them in use at the farmstead. We will be asking for volunteers to visit the Elementary School with the traveling trunks and to man the house and outbuildings as docents for the few days we will be inviting our students to visit. Please consider giving us some of your time to make this happen. We really want our township's children to love the history that surrounds them!

The nominating and budget-audit committees also need members. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please call me at 628-2902. All board members are reminded that our next board meeting will be held at my house on August 24th at 7 pm. Enjoy the rest of the summer and see you in September.

Carol Ann

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! THE APPLEFEST APPROACHETH!

Plans are underway for the tenth annual event, scheduled for Sunday, October 3, 2010, to be held at the Gandy Farmstead, 26 Tyler Road, in

Greenfield Upper Township, NJ, SHINE (or rain).

Many hands make light work and this means YOU ARE NEEDED! Opportunities abound - House docents, Food Servers, Bakers, Sales Clerks, Children's Games supervisors, Cashiers, and the always popular Preparation/Set-Up and clean Up/Take-Down Committees. All Members are extended an invitation to participate in this major fund-raising event.

Committee meetings are scheduled (consult the Calendar of Events) to plan for the AppleFest so please consider assisting the Society by contacting either Carol (#628-2902) or Sonia (628-3041), or just show up at a meeting to volunteer. All meetings to be held at the Gandy House. Thanks!

Submitted by Sonia Forry and Carol Williams, event co-chairpersons

Not Just a Fund Raiser!

The AppleFest and Strawberry Festival are not just fund raisers, but a wonderful way for us to give back to the community. Where else can a family enjoy free music, browse the crafter's booths, and have a meal for so little money in a beautiful setting. The sun is shining, the grape arbor is cool, the windmill is creaking, and water flows into the trough. In these hard economic times this is grand. At the same time children and adults can get a glimpse of life on a South Jersey farm in the mid eighteen hundreds.

Most of the people who attend like to buy a little something to take home that is not very expensive, but still helps out the Historic Society and reminds them of the theme. In the spring Strawberry Jelly and especially Strawberry Bread is popular. In the fall Apple Butter and Apple baked goods are in demand. Please, please

bake anything with apples or apple sauce in it

to sell at the AppleFest. We always sell out. Many of us can't work a whole day at the 'fair', but most of us can bake something or work for an hour. It is lots of fun, please join us.

Steamboats on the Tuckahoe

by Alwina D. Bailey

Back in 1877, Tuckahoe was a sleepy little town that nestled on both sides of the Tuckahoe River. The bustling days of glassworking in Marshallville and iron manufacture at Aetna Furnace were long since past and the glory days of the railroad had not yet arrived. In other parts of South Jersey, train service was already available but stage-coach and river travel were Tuckahoe's only means of transportation until the railroad came in 1893.

Imagine then, the excitement that spread among the residents of Tuckahoe when it became known that a group of local citizens had decided to buy a steamboat as a business venture. This vessel was to operate between Tuckahoe and Somers Point, carrying passengers and cargo on a schedule which would enable them to make train connections to northern destinations.

Beyond that, imagine the thrill with which the people, especially the younger generation, greeted the arrival of the side wheel Reuben Potter as she steamed up the river to her landing in Tuckahoe! She was an impressive sight and sound as she glided to her wharf with whistle blowing and bells clanging. She was 100 feet overall with a 25 foot beam. though she looked much wider because of the great paddle wheels on either side. It was rumored that the steamer had cost the huge sum of \$7,000. Even so, she was expected to make her owners a goodly profit

for she had a large cargo area and room for as many as a hundred passengers on the upper deck.

Alas, the Reuben Potter did not live up to expectations in the river trade. Her short three year career was characterized by frequent breakdowns which sometimes caused great inconvenience to passengers who missed connections they had planned. But if she was a failure financially, she was a grand success socially, for the Reuben Potter couldn't be beat as the choice for the local annual Sunday School picnics. A hundred or more children and adults would crowd aboard her for a cruise on the Tuckahoe with never a care if a breakdown did delay the trip. It only extended the day's pleasure for all and made the trip an adventure!

One of the main reasons the Reuben Potter failed in the river transportation business was the arrival of some competition soon after she began her schedule. This was the Bonnie Doon, a 65-foot stern screw steamer which was a much faster boat. The Reuben Potter may have been more romantic but the Bonnie Doon was certainly more reliable as well as speedier. Breakdowns continued to plague the old sidewheeler until finally a boiler exposion nearly killed the engineer. The owners tried to restore her to service by procuring a replacement boiler from New York only to have the steamboat inspector refuse to approve it. Legend has it that it took a payment of ten dollars. to get the boiler passed! Soon after these events the owners abandoned

the losing venture and in 1880 the Reuben Potter was towed up the river to what is now Corbin City where she was run aground and dismantled.

The Bonnie Doon continued to ply the river until the railroad came to Tuckahoe when her usefuliness as a means of transportation ended. Her skipper, John Craig, decided to take her to Anglesea, where he hoped to use her to take out fishing parties. However, she ran aground on the "North" bar at the Anglesea harbor. A Life Saving crew consisting of a Captain Ludiam and three volunteers went to Bonnie Doon's assistance, but while backing her off the bar she struck a "lump" and broke in two. All hands were saved, but the Bonnie Doon sank in about a minute.

Thus ends the story of the two steamboats which plied the Tuckahoe in the 19th century.

Note: Information for this article came largely from a newspaper article by E.L. Johnstone, reporting an interview with Edward Durrell Burley, "sage of Tuckahoe". This article is on file in the Cape May County Library, but the name and date of the newspaper are not noted on the clipping. The information on the Bonnie Doon was found in microfilm of old area newspapers on file in the Cape May County Historical Museum.

Alwina Bailey is a member of the Upper Township Historical Preservation Society.

Calendar of Events



- August 24 Board of Trustees meeting at Carol's house 7 pm.
- <u>August 30</u> This Monday at 10 am the initial planning meeting for the AppleFest will be held at the Gandy Farmstead.
- <u>September 13</u> The second planning meeting for the AppleFest will also be held on Monday at the Gandy Farmstead.
- The library is refurbished and our meetings will resume at the Upper
 Township Branch Library. As usual, social time starts at 7 pm and the
 meeting commences at 7:30.

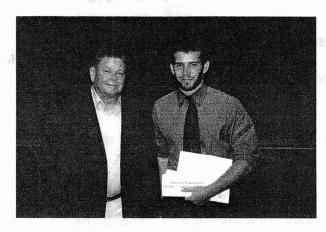
 Larissa Smith, an expert on eagles and other raptors, will speak to us about
 her work in reestablishing these beautiful birds in our township. She works
 at the Tuckahoe Fish and Wildlife Management Area formerly called the
 MacNamara Game Preserve.
- <u>September 27</u> The third planning meeting for the AppleFest will be held at 10 am at the Gandy Farmstead this Monday.
- October 2 On Saturday, the day preceding the AppleFest, we will meet at the Farmstead at 9 am for site preparation and to set up for the event.
- Our 10th annual AppleFest starts at 10 am and concludes at 4 pm. Please come a little early if you can to help. Don't forget to bring (apple) baked goods to sell and a pie to enter in the contest.
- October 12 Our meeting will be held in Egg Harbor Township at the Clayton Storage Facility on Ocean Heights Avenue. Ralph Clayton will be touring us on all of the things he has collected. I.e.: outboard motors, antique autos, rare boats, mechanical music makers and more. This will be a fascinating, unique and FUN meeting. Dan will have some handouts with maps and directions at the September meeting. At that time we can make arrangements for carpooling.
- November 9 Harry Shourds will be showing his wood carving techniques and his collection.

 Not just decoys! But Santa Claus and various tree ornaments, as well as other objects. This is a great look into wood carving, a folk art that has been around for generations.

Our meeting will be held at the Upper Township Branch Library. As usual, social time starts at 7 pm and the meeting commences at 7:30.

Nominations for officers will be made at this time.

RECENT EVENTS



As you know, the Historical Presentation Society gives scholarship awards at the end of the school year. At left is a picture of Dan Clark giving the award to Ryan McSorley, as he graduates Ocean City High School. Dan would like to say that he received a personal thank you note from Ryan.

Marj Bixby presented the award to Nicole Castagnoli at the Middle School.

And Olive Pisani presented the award to Hibe Ahmad in the Elementary School.



Anne Snyder would like to give:

"A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR OUR SUCCESSFUL STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL:"

We made \$1,749.78 in profit.
This was the highest profit in the 21 years that we have held the event:

And we would like to thank Anne for chairing the Strawberry Festival! Without all her time, effort and superior organizational skills it would never have been, let alone, been so successful!

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Accolades go to Kay Terwilliger who did a bang up job on publicity for the Strawberry Festival. Did you see the May 21 issue of the sandpaper? We made the front page with a color picture.

Surely one of the main reasons for the event's success was due to her!

This picture is of a steamboat such as the ones that once sailed the Tuckahoe River.

The following article was written by one of our deceased members for South Jersey Magazine.

