



Washington Township Historical Society

6 Fairview Avenue, P.O. Box 189, Long Valley, New Jersey 07853

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Annual Report for 2009

Message from the President

2010 marks the 50th anniversary for our Historical Society. The earliest meeting minutes in the archives are from August 6, 1960 and on October 29th Harley Wilson made a motion that a historical society representing Washington Township be formally organized. Present at that meeting was Mrs. Wilbur Allen (Virginia Allen), an active honorary member today. Incorporation was in 1961. That was fast work, all without answering machines, personal computers, email, and the internet. We are fortunate to have a solid foundation and 50-year history.

As you'll read in this report, the work of the Historical Society continues through the efforts of many dedicated members. As we take some time this year to pull out photographs, meeting minutes, and newspaper clippings and celebrate our past, it's fair to say we do so from a relatively strong position. If you are interested to get more involved, contact WTHS or attend a meeting in the Museum at 7:30pm on the third Tuesday of every month except for July and August. Let's keep the momentum going and carry on!

Board of Trustees

Officers

President: Shelley Heretyk
Treasurer: Naresh Garg
Corresponding Secretary: Holly Zimmerman
Recording Secretary: Betsy Guzenski

Trustees

Michael Bienvenue (08, 09) Eileen Stokes (08, 09)
Mary Darter (08, 09) Eleanor Taormina (09, 10)
Dominic Puleo (09, 10) Cathy Webster (09, 10)
Martha Puleo (09, 10)

New Honorary Member

Dorothy Brahney was nominated to be an honorary member at the October board meeting and will be conferred at the annual meeting on January 19, 2010.

New Members

Gina Boderck
Cindy Boerner-Lay and Micah Lay
Forrest (Woody) Burgener & Family
Rhonda and Ray Carr
Christina S. Friedland-Dore and Christopher Dore
Christine Money
Kevin Natale
David Riley
Heidi Roche and Keith Nitka
Peter and Cindy Ruggiero
Hans Schwarz

Museum Docents

We continued to keep the Museum open to the public every week from 2-4pm on Sundays. We almost always had visitors. Three members joined the team who volunteer to serve as docents. Special thanks to: **Woody Burgener, Mary Darter, Betsy Guzenski, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Ann Kordys, Millicent Palmer, Ruth Reed, Eileen Stokes, Eleanor Taormina, and Holly Zimmerman.** Everyone now has a pin with their name and WTHS on it to wear.

Maintenance in the Museum

1. Substantial masonry work was completed. First, the concrete block chimney on the east side of the museum was showing deterioration and damage. **Vince Iacampo**, stone mason, repaired and stabilized it. Second, he and his team completely vacuumed the basement, re-pointed the stonework there, and plugged holes.
2. **John Hemmings** built shelves for storage and displays, painted the front porch, built saw horses and provided table tops for the used book sale, fixed the back door, cut and re-hung the downstairs closet door so it opens more easily, reversed the hinges on the back door to the porch, replaced broken window panes, hung pictures, and added a missing rail to the cemetery fence.
3. **Eleanor Taormina** repainted the Washington Township Historical Society outdoor signs as they were in poor condition.
4. Ground hogs plaguing the museum were relocated at least 8 miles away by **Keith Hayes**. **Eileen Stokes** treated the foundation to prevent additional ground hogs from making the Museum their home.

Museum Watch

Members continued to check the Museum daily for problems. We had no incidents. We did catch one case of freezing pipes that we were able to thaw before damage. Many thanks go to those who check and help solve problems: **Mary Darter, Naresh Garg, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Ann Kordys, Charlie Noll, Janet Noll, Eileen Stokes, and Holly Zimmerman.**

Volunteer Hours in the Museum

This year we began tracking volunteer time in the Museum. From April through December total hours were 662. Of course many more hours were spent at home, etc. and are not accounted for. However, this is one measure we plan to continue.

Programs and Events

1. The second annual Used Book Sale was held on April 16th, 17th, and 18th.
2. Dedication of the new German Valley School Bell Stand in memory of Kathleen Darter was held on May 17th. Cub Scout Pack 36, Girl Scout Troops 369 and 1238, Boy Scout Troup 236, and the Colonial Musketeers of Hackettstown participated in the ceremony.
3. Matt Little gave an informative talk on unseen and obscure historical sites in the area at the May meeting.
4. We had a table and display at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony on May 23rd.
5. **Carol Homer** presented an interesting program on *Antique Embroidery* at the June meeting.
6. In August we had a table and display at "National Night Out" in Rock Spring Park.
7. We also had a table and display at the "Fall Festival" on September 26th.
8. On December 6th we participated in the annual "Holiday Happenings".
9. The 26th annual Historic House Tour was held on December 12th.
10. We had a holiday party at the December meeting.

Displays in the Museum

1. *Antique Sewing Machines and Sewing Tools* by **Denise Niessing**
2. *Early Organizations of Washington Township* by **Shelley Heretyk, Karen Muscat, and Holly Zimmerman**
3. Holiday Windows, Decorations, and Tree by **Joanne Groves, Betsy Guzanski, Mary Ann Kordys, Wayne Marks, Karen Muscat, Hans Schwarz, and Holly Zimmerman.**

Scholarship

A scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded to William Reynolds in June.

Crafts Group

The Crafts Group continues to meet weekly to create beautiful historic crafts and raise funds through sales on the day of the house tour. Active members are **Laurie Akin, Mary Darter, Ruth Fish, Joanne Groves, Martina Heuckels, Evelyn Lesch, Margie Milne, Janet Noll, Lucile Orion, Eleanor Taormina, and Peg Van Brunt.**

Historic House Tour

The 26th annual historic house tour was a great success. Special thanks to the committee: **Woody Burgener, Naresh Garg, Betsy Guzanski, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Grace Hix, Mary Ann Kordys, Karen Muscat, Denise Niessing, Dominic Puleo, Martha Puleo, Hans Schwarz, Eileen Stokes, Eleanor Taormina, Cathy Webster, and Holly Zimmerman.**

Scouting and Tours in the Museum

Eileen Stokes works with Scouts and this year she:

1. Gave three historic presentations and museum tours to Cub Den 10, Pack 36 on February 4th, Tigers Pack 36 on February 12th and February 25th.
2. Hosted Brownie Troop 663 on October 5th - toured the cemetery and Tetzal markers, did grave rubbings, and presented development of the town.
3. Presented WTHS acknowledgments at two Gold Award ceremonies for 8 girl scouts.
4. Presented WTHS acknowledgments at four Eagle Scout ceremonies for 5 boy scouts.
5. Assisted Jessica Forman with her Gold Award project, Matt Whalen with his Eagle project, and Sarah Lichon with her Silver project.
6. Helped counselor and scouts with their archeology merit badge on July 23rd by providing meeting facilities in the museum and access to the Union Church site.

WTHS Long Term Plan

A committee met several times to develop a long term plan. Items were divided into four categories and we did an initial assessment. We plan to complete the draft and continue implementation in 2010.

Museum Garden

The *Garden Club of Long Valley* continued to maintain the Museum's perennial garden in a beautiful way. We are grateful for all their time and talents.

Stabilization Project

The archeological dig of the Union Church Ruins was completed in July 2009. Dr. Richard Viet, archeologist, and his assistant were helped by volunteer students, scouts, and members. Funding was received in the form of a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, won in 2008, in the amount of \$3,821.80.

The Morris County Heritage Preservation Trust funded the Union Church Ruins construction grant in 2009, in the amount of \$39,999, to stabilize the Union Church Ruins. Matching funds of \$10,000 for the \$49,999 total project cost will be met by the Union Church Ruins Stabilization Fund. Local mason, Vince Iacampo, has begun the work and has completed 34% of the project to date.

Contributions to the Stabilization Fund

Monetary contributions to the Union Church Ruins Stabilization Fund were received by:

Marguerite and Olive Troxel (in memory of Dorothy Cleveland)

The Estate of Dorothy Stephan Cleveland
Eleanor Taormina (in memory of Betty Hogan)
Mary Darter (in memory of Betty Hogan)

Library and Museum Committee

Active members are **Betsy Guzenski, Karen Muscat, Holly Zimmerman, and Shelley Heretyk** who meet weekly in the winter and spring.

1. Completed the project "Archival Storage and Inventory" with the grant award of \$1,900 made by the Morris County Heritage Commission in December 2008. We purchased a lot of archival materials and collections processed included photographs, books, pamphlets, documents, and artifacts. It took about 560 volunteer hours.
2. Continued to work with students from West Morris Central High School and Rosanne Lichatin, lead history teacher and co-advisor of the History Club. We applied for a collaborative grant from the History Channel in June but unfortunately did not receive it.
3. Drafted a "Collections Management Policy".
4. Applied for CAPES (Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service) from the New Jersey Historical Commission. We requested professional guidance on our draft Collections Management Policy, how we are organizing some collections, and feedback from an archivist on how we are storing things. The grant was awarded and a consultant, Chad Leinawever from the Newark Public Library, met with the committee in July. Overall we are on the right track and he provided a report with some recommendations.
5. Naresh Garg completed conversion of 12 VHS tapes to DVD as video tapes are obsolete.
6. Applied for a grant from the Morris County Heritage Commission for "Programs and Collections Management". In December we were awarded \$2,000 for work to be completed in 2010.

Publications, Web, and Gift Shop

1. *German Valley School Bell* - history and digital slide show was created by **Naresh Garg** and **Shelley Heretyk**. Available on WTHS web site.
2. **Naresh Garg** compiled an index to *A History of Washington Township 1800 – 1890* by Virginia Allen. We printed a second edition of the book and have sold more than half.
3. A 2010 calendar *Central Railroad of New Jersey – High Bridge Branch in Washington Township* was published and it sold out. Members involved creating it were **Virginia Allen, Naresh Garg, John Hemmings, and Shelley Heretyk**.
4. 2009 Historic House Tour Book
5. Historic photos were scanned, printed, and framed by **Hans Schwarz** and added to gift shop offerings.
6. **Naresh Garg** continued to maintain the WTHS web site, <http://www.wthsnj.org>. Throughout the year he made several updates and added collection lists, the book index, and photographs.

Research Requests

The following is a list of research requests completed by **Shelley Heretyk, Mary Ann Kordys, and Eileen Stokes**.

1. Photographs of roads in Washington Township in the 1930s for a Morris County law suit
2. Chapel at Schooley's Mountain Park
3. Alfred Scully c1895, Drakestown Road, and Mine Hill Road
4. House and property at 315 Schooley's Mountain Road
5. Teeter family
6. Dempsey Farm on Rock Road and Dr. Rock's house
7. Owl Town
8. Howell family history and unrecorded deeds
9. House on Bartley Road
10. Family who lived on the grounds of the Dorincourt
11. Gurukula on Rock Road
12. Missions
13. Upcoming 350th anniversary of Zion Lutheran Church
14. NJ Tercentenary Celebration in Washington Township
15. Information on our house tour process
16. Dufford House on West Mill Road
17. Neighbour properties on West Mill Road
18. Location of Schooley's Mountain Springs
19. Hockenberry family
20. Bonham headstone in Pleasant Grove Cemetery
21. Search of a railroad photograph

Donations to the Museum Collection

1. Papers from the Springtown Tavern when owned by Solomon Rose in the late 1800s, advertisements, some of his personal papers, and a newspaper. Given by Gwen Lonetto.
2. Old Ballentine Lumber sign given by Cedarwood Landscaping.
3. Photo post cards and 6 local railroad station photographs given by John Hemmings.
4. Antique New Jersey State Flag given by Matt Little.
5. 1924 Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church and 1915 Schooley's Mountain General Store pamphlets given by Mary Ann Kordys.
6. Seven Eliza Hopkins Swackhamer newspaper clippings from the late 1800s and several old Swackhamer family photographs. Given by Larry Brasher.
7. Framed "God Bless America" antique embroidery given by Ruth Reed.
8. 1931 Firemen's Certificate of Fred B. Hoffman, 1957 pamphlet to dedicate the Presbyterian Church, 1902 marriage book of Frederick Hoffman to Josephine Ewing, Morris Canal books, and Long Valley Inn photograph. All belonged to Ken Hoffman. Given by Michael O'Brien.

Donations to Museum Collection continued...

9. Cleveland family heirloom bonnets, antique manual drill c1910, single wiffle tree c1915, sickle c1880, crock, documents, cards, photographs, and clippings from the Estate of Dorothy Cleveland. Given by Joanne Stephan Smith.
10. Metal shoe form with 4 shoes and old potato masher – both used by the Farley family. Given by Marie and Josephine Farley.
11. Two books, “Sandy Floppy Ears of German Valley” and “John the Lonesome Duck” written by Guy Frederick, a local author, with drawings by Cynthia Valesio. Given by Marie Bohn.
12. A 1909 and 1911 statement (bill) from Dr. William James given by Dr. Patricia A. Andrews.
13. Open Flag for the Museum given by Betsy Guzenski and pole by Shelley Heretyk.
14. 1912 letter to Mrs. Mary Hoover and envelope addressed to Miss Mary Lake. Given by Nicholas Sadlowski.
15. Indenture dated 1749 between William Logan and Peter Sharpenstein covering the land in what is now Long Valley, photographs and recipes from the Long Valley Inn, photographs of Metz and Messler families. Given by Charles Messler.
16. Long Valley name change political cartoon, newspaper clipping picturing Harley Wilson on name change issue, and Scott Farm auction advertisement. Given by Joan O’Dowd.
17. Lanterman family history, Daniel Lanterman will (1825), and Catherine Lanterman will. Given by Anne Magee.
18. Photographs of John Trainor c1891, Hilltop Cottage 1913, and family with Edna May Sporn. *Hilltop Cottage* poem and 1936 newspaper clippings of nearby nudist colony. Given by Heidi Roche and Keith Nitka.
19. Summer 1969 “Swackhamer-Dufford Bulletin” given by Ellen Freeman.

Monetary Contributions to WTHS

Gary Algeier
Dale Blum
Fran Borgenicht
Bill Capell
Mary Jo Crane
Kelly Ann Doerr
Donn Dufford
Theodora and Robert Falcone
Naresh Garg
Eleanor and Mervyn Haines, Jr.
John Hemmings
Shelley Heretyk
Audrey Kleinhans
Mary Ann and Matt Kordys
Long Valley Woman’s Club
Margaret Nordstrom
Millicent Palmer
Gary Robinson

Monetary Contributions to WTHS continued...

Ruth and Murray Reed
Sue Ellen Underwood
Mildred VanScoten
Barbara Westergaard
Carol Zaikowski
Holly and Chris Zimmerman

Helen Betty Hogan Memorial Fund

Jeannine M. Duane
Alice Emmons
Paul Gallagher
Shelley Heretyk and Naresh Garg
Richard and Elaine Hogan
Ruth Lovett
Bob and Helen Myer
Charles J. and Judy N. Naomi
Dale and Wilfredo Reyes
Gloria M. Robbins
Starlight Chapter #107

2010 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted, the starting time is 7:30pm and the location is
Washington Township Historical Society Museum
6 Fairview Avenue in Long Valley.

Jan 19: Annual Meeting – Dorothy Brahney will be conferred as an honorary member, a digital photo show of the year in review will be shown on our new large screen HD monitor, brief year end reports, and election of officers and trustees. Refreshments will be served. Snow date is Jan 20.

Feb 16: Finalize plans for the year and 2010 House Tour sign up. Snow date is Feb 17.

Mar 3: *Practical Tips for the Care of Historical Documents* – the speaker is Joseph M. Ciccone, J.D., C.A. and the time is 6:30-8:30pm with networking & refreshments starting at 5:30. Will be held at the Morris County Cultural Center located at 300 Mendham Road (Rt. 24) in Morris Township. Workshop sponsored by the Morris County Heritage Commission and WTHS. There is no charge but registration is required by Feb 26. For more info and to register visit www.wthsnj.org, send email to info@wthsnj.org or call 908-876-9696. Snow date is Mar 4.

Mar 16: *Railroad in Washington Township* – digital slide show of photographs and documents from the WTHS collection presented by John Hemmings and Naresh Garg. Snow date is Mar 17.

Apr 15, 16, 17: Used Book Sale. Times TBD.

Apr 20: Library Overview and Tunis Trimmer Documents

May 18: Welcome to Washington Township and Museum – short video for visitors and training to show it.

June 15: Walking Tour in the German Valley Historic District led by Betsy Guzenski.