



Washington Township Historical Society

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Annual Report for 2010

Message from the President

Our citation of October 19, 2010 from the U.S. House of Representatives states "Washington Township Historical Society is hereby congratulated as it celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The members and contributors of the Washington Township Historical Society are recognized for their years of dedication to keeping township history alive. Their efforts to provide tomorrow's generation a glimpse into yesterday are commended. May their actions serve as an inspiration to others".

Through the work of many in 2010, we continued to fulfill these words. Members' dedication is evidenced by the number of volunteer hours; people go out of their way to donate items to the collection. Our new laptops enabled us to work with students in productive and meaningful ways; our new large digital monitor provided a way to present history to the public in the museum. The work of the Stabilization Committee is an inspiration. The Union Church looks beautiful – sturdy, clean, and bright.

As we wrap up WTHS' 50th year, let's take some time to be thankful for what we have and remember those who helped make it so. I hope you will attend the Open House in March!

Board of Trustees

Officers

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

Trustees

Dorothy Brahney (2010, '11) Eleanor Taormina (2009, '10)
John Hemmings (2010, '11) Cathy Webster (2009, '10)
Dominic Puleo (2009, '10)
Martha Puleo (2009, '10)

WTHS Annual Meeting

January 18, 2011, 7:30pm
at WTHS Museum
6 Fairview Avenue in Long Valley
Bad weather date is Jan 19

- 2010 Financial Report
- Committee Reports (as needed)
- Historic Photos of 2010
- Election of 2011 Officers & Trustees

Refreshments - please attend!

New Members – Welcome

William Cramer
JoAnn and Jeffrey Chaplin
Iris and Rafi Kadosh
Colin Money
Sue and Kirk Ogden
Dianne and Bob Pennisi
Dr. Michael and Beewah Silverberg

Volunteer Hours in the Museum

We had 1,284 volunteer hours in the museum for the year. This is 25 hours per week, the equivalent of a half-time employee.

Museum Docents by John Hemmings, Chairperson

The Museum was open & staffed by docents for 48 Sundays this year. With the docent's knowledge of the history of Long Valley & Washington Twp., visitors are impressed and enjoy their visit. It is a good time to seek new members also.

Barbara Rossi is a new docent. Special thanks to members serving as docents four or more times this year: Betsy Guzenski, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Ann Kordys, Millicent Palmer, Ruth Reed, and Holly Zimmerman. We can always use more docents - please volunteer. Contact John at (908) 876-3108 or johnhemmings@mygait.com.

Museum Watch

We had no "disasters" this year - many thanks to those who check the museum daily for problems: Mary Darter, Naresh Garg, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Ann Kordys, Eileen Stokes, and Holly Zimmerman.

Programs and Events

1. The Morris County Heritage Commission and WTHS sponsored a workshop *Practical Tips for the Care of Historical Documents* on March 3rd.
2. Dr. Richard Veit presented a program about the archaeological excavation at the Union Church Ruins on March 8th.
3. John Hemmings presented *Historic Railroad in Washington Township* in the museum on March 16, 18, 23, and 24.
4. The third annual Used Book Sale was held on April 15th, 16th, and 17th. Nina Rasmussen of Troop 782 in Roxbury contacted us – she was collecting grades 4-12 books for “Katrina Literacy in New Orleans.” We were happy to make a large donation of unsold books, all in excellent condition.
5. Shelley Heretyk presented *Tunis Trimmer Documents* at the April meeting.
6. On May 3rd we had a celebration of student’s work in the museum for parents, students, and Ms. Lichatin.
7. The Morris County Heritage Commission had their site visit in the museum on May 5th. Naresh Garg presented work we completed for the 2010 grant.
8. We organized a table and display at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony in May.
9. Matt Little presented a program on clocks and watches, including appraisals, at the June meeting.
10. Attendees of the Swackhamer-Dufford Annual Reunion came to the museum for a presentation by Shelley Heretyk on July 31st.
11. Betsy Guzenski and Holly Zimmerman organized a table and display at the “Kevin Walsh Fireworks Festival” on August 28th.
12. On September 12th, members, invited guests, and the public attended a “Celebration of Unity” at the museum to commemorate the completion of the Union Church Ruins. Eleanor Taormina, Eileen Stokes, and Pastor Peter Froehlke of Zion Lutheran Church made remarks.
13. Russ Worthington gave a program on “Find A Grave” in the museum on Sept 20 & 21.
14. We had a table at the annual *Mistletoe Market* at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church in November.
15. Shelley Heretyk gave a talk about the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society Heritage Tour to Germany, France, and Switzerland at the November meeting.
16. On December 5th we participated in the annual “Holiday Happenings”.
17. Shelley Heretyk presented an orientation to West Morris Central students on December 6th.
18. The 27th annual Historic House Tour was held on December 11th.

Website – www.wthsnj.org

Naresh Garg continued to maintain and enhance the WTHS website. We had 2,635 visitors to the site and answered numerous email queries. We are now on Facebook.

Displays in the Museum

Several displays were created by West Morris Central Students, Naresh Garg, Betsy Guzenski, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Ann Kordys, Karen Muscat, Sara Schorr, Eileen Stokes, and Holly Zimmerman:

1. The Collection of Virginia Hoffman
2. Showcase of student volunteers
3. Help from the Home Front in Washington Township – World War II
4. Trains and Local Photographs
5. Display Case in the Union Church Cemetery
6. Archaeological Investigation of June and July 2009 at the Old Union Church Ruins
7. Art by the WTHS Crafts Group
8. Holiday Decorations and Tree.

Publications

1. DVD of *Historic Railroad in Washington Township* - Naresh Garg created a video of over 125 photographs, documents, and maps interpreted and narrated by John Hemmings - covering 100 years of railroad in Washington Township. DVD sales to date are over \$600.
2. 2011 calendar *Historic Villages of Washington Township*. Members involved were Naresh Garg, Hans Schwarz, and Shelley Heretyk.
3. Mary Ann Kordys wrote a pamphlet, *The Stone Union Church and Cemetery Site, Long Valley, NJ*.
4. Naresh Garg and Shelley Heretyk produced a WTHS Membership Directory with Bylaws.
5. 2010 Historic House Tour Book.
6. Shelley Heretyk wrote several *Sunday Star-Ledger Glimpse of History* columns: Schooley’s Mountain General Store (c1900); Hay Stacks (1922); Knights of Pythias & Improved Order of Red Men Celebration (1910); The Bomb Plant (1943); Hub Factory (c1900); Washington Twp Police Dept (1942); DAR (1911); and Kice Quarry (1910).

Scholarship

A scholarship in the amount of \$500 was awarded to Morgan Duhe in June.

Scouting and Tours in the Museum

Eileen Stokes gave tours to:

1. Tigers on January 10th
2. Cub Scout Pack 36 on May 6th
3. Junior Girl Scout Troop on May 13th
4. Girl Scout Troop 45 on September 26th
5. Cub Scout Pack 236 in December.

Eileen presented WTHS acknowledgments at Gold Award and Eagle Scout ceremonies throughout 2010.

Crafts Group

The Crafts Group met weekly and raised funds for WTHS. Active members are Laurie Akin, Mary Darter, Ruth Fish, Joanne Groves, Martina Heuckels, Evelyn Lesch, Margie Milne, Janet Noll, Lucille Orion, Patti Straus, Eleanor Taormina, and Peg Van Brunt.

Historic House Tour

The 27th annual historic house tour held on December 11th was excellent – the homes were beautiful, the weather was perfect, and all had a great time. Special thanks to the committee: Naresh Garg, Betsy Guzinski, John Hemmings, Shelley Heretyk, Mary Grace Hix, Mary Ann Kordys, Karen Muscat, Denise Niessing, Dominic Puleo, Martha Puleo, Hans Schwarz, Eileen Stokes, Eleanor Taormina, and Holly Zimmerman.

Maintenance in the Museum

John Hemmings and Eileen Stokes helped with maintenance this year.

1. John fixed and painted the front porch deck, installed one wooden storm window, rebuilt the front wooden gate and painted it, and fixed the front storm door that blew off its hinges.
2. Eileen scraped the exterior oil tank & painted it with rust proof paint, treated the foundation to prevent ground hogs, and hand washed, as recommended by quilters, the *Long Valley* quilt. She had to rinse it multiple times as it was full of soot from the furnace backup we had several years ago.

Museum Garden

The *Garden Club of Long Valley* continued to maintain the Museum's perennial garden. We appreciate their time and talents for making the site so beautiful.

Union Church Ruin Stabilization Committee by Eleanor Taormina, Chairperson

Contracted stabilization work of The Union Church Ruins was resumed in the summer of 2010 and completed by September. The mason contractor, Vincent Iacampo, donated additional work, which was not part of the original approved plan. This work added an archway over the entrance opening and raised the sidewalls to a height that supported the arch. Photographic references were found which depicted this arch in the original building.

The Morris County Preservation Trust Fund paid all the outstanding work contracts to Vincent Iacampo and to architect John Bolt, in November.

The committee planned a Celebration of Unity, which took place on September 12. The idea was to celebrate the completion of the project with the cooperation of the Zion Lutheran Church, the Long Valley Presbyterian Church and the many residents, businesses and organizations that helped to financially support the project. Historical society members were invited as well as townspeople, all specialists who worked on the project and all of the organizations involved. Despite the rainy weather, there was a good turnout. Music and scouts were part of the event, words were spoken in praise and gratitude, and refreshments were served.

Mary Ann Kordys researched and wrote a comprehensive history of the Union Church Ruins

which was printed and is made available to all visitors. A weatherproof Plexiglas brochure holder was affixed to the display case at the site where visitors can remove and keep a copy with all the information.

A plaque was hung in the museum this summer, which bears the names of donors who are in the angel category (donations over \$1,000) of our fundraising drive. So far, we have two donors, Mary Darter & Midge Darter and Dorothy Stephan Cleveland.

The Historical Society has loaned the Project \$900, for the purpose of meeting the construction grant matching fund commitment. It was agreed that these funds would be returned within two years. The current balance in the Project account is \$32.66

Library and Museum Committee by Shelley Heretyk, Chairperson

Active members are Naresh Garg, Betsy Guzinski, John Hemmings, Karen Muscat, Barbara Rossi, Sara Schorr, and Holly Zimmerman. We meet weekly January through May and individually other months. In 2010 we:

1. Received a grant of \$2,000 from the Morris County Heritage Commission. We purchased laptops, a large screen digital monitor, a digital camera, and a DVD player with the funds.
2. Completed the "Collections Management Policy" and obtained WTHS Board approval.
3. Built new shelves for storage in the upstairs closet.
4. We expanded our volunteer program with students from West Morris Central High School and Rosanne Lichatin, lead history teacher and co-advisor of the History Club. 14 students participated: Cara Antonaccio, Nicki Drzewinski, Mimi Journey, Megan Lasky, Sean Lotosky, Sarah Mennen, Vid Micevic, Brendan Milik, Ryan Riccordella, Lindsey Severud, Kate Sullivan, Nicole Thauer, Charlie Thieringer, and Jason Vespoli. In addition, Marie Bonnar from Watchung Hills Regional High School volunteered remotely and was an asset. The students are enthusiastic, adept with computers, and a delight to work with.
5. Students and the Library/Museum Committee entered over 1,300 paper records into a catalog; transcribed a local 1749 deed, iron mine poster, and *Tercentenary Days*; tagged artifacts and updated the catalog; cataloged ~185 postcards and *Black River Journals*; cataloged ~350 Staiano photographs/histories and scanned photos; scanned *German Valley Rural Cemetery Plot Book* and *Pioneers of Washington Township* (posted on web site); and scanned ~150 photos for the railroad program and research request.

We applied for another grant from the Morris County Heritage Commission and received an award of \$2,200 (the full amount requested) for 2011. Funds will be spent on archival supplies, equipment for oral history, backup, and off-site program presentation.

Donations to the Museum Collection

1. Mine on Schooley's Mountain – original letter and receipt from 1879, given by Dennis and Ammey Gregory.
2. Two large signs from Welsh Farms given by Hoffman's Supply.
3. Family research and related documents of the late Russell Dufford, Jr., given by the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society.
4. Bicentennial (1976) Commemorative Spoon of Washington Township Library given by the Washington Township Public Library.
5. "Passing on the Faith" book by Helga Schwartz given by Eileen Stokes.
6. Collection of Chester Railroad documents accumulated and given by Martin Winkler.
7. "A Walking History Tour of the Central Railroad of NJ in High Bridge, NJ" by Dave Goessling, given by Dave Goessling.
8. Central Railroad of NJ documents pertaining to Long Valley/German Valley given by Frank Reilly.
9. Tie Plate and bolt found on the Chester Hill Branch, given by John Hemmings.
10. World War II ration coupon and two OPA coins given by Richmond Bates.
11. Award to Gertrude Taylor and newspaper clipping given by the nephew of Gertrude Taylor.
12. Palatines to America 300 Year Anniversary Crock and ornament given by George N. Apgar, Jr.
13. Merrybrook Estates, Inc. – real estate brochure, homes, diagrams, etc. given by Anonymous.
14. Document of talk presented by Steven F. Firtko at the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Soc. annual reunion – Early Settlement of German Valley.
15. Transcription by Bonnie Wilson of "A Du Ford Family History" written by George S. Du Ford (Dufford) in 1935. Given by Bonnie Wilson.
16. Dufford Family Tree Chart and Blue Print maintained by the late Russell Dufford, Jr., given by the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society.
17. "Long Valley Volunteer Fire Company Annual Dinner & Dance Program Book 1921-1992", given by Virginia Allen.
18. Pen inscribed with Norbert Schwechheimer, Altlussheim, Germany and photograph of Jacob Schwechheimer, given by Norbert Schwechheimer.
19. Document by Shelley Heretyk about the Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society Heritage Tour to Germany, France, & Switzerland, post card from Altlussheim, and photographs, given by Shelley Heretyk.
20. Two documents written by Caryl Brackenridge in 1999 – "German Valley Early Settlers and Early Industry" and "The Obadiah LaTourette Grist and Saw Mill", given by Caryl Brackenridge.
21. A scrapbook about Washington Twp compiled by Helen Andrews, given by Ellen & Bruce Andrews.
22. Railroad post cards, photos by Bob Pennisi, given by Bob Pennisi.
23. Long Valley Fire Department 1932 program, "Fire Laddies' Merry Minstrels", WTHS acquisition.
24. Photos - railroad men at the Whitehouse Station, Hendershot family, 2 pgs railroad workbook 1911, and Reward of Merit Card, given by Linda Jones.
25. Pamphlet, c1911, "The Favorite Steam and Water Heaters" – the R.C. Bartley Co., Bartley, New Jersey, given by Debbie and Howard Elmire.
26. Citation from the United States Congress recognizing WTHS' 50 year anniversary signed by Congressman Rodney P. Frelinghuysen.
27. Photo images from the Newark Public Library: Welsh Farms (1991), Stone Bridge (1930), Hopley House (1966), Mill (1923), and Corwin Farm (1943). Provided by Chad Leinaweaver.
28. Photo image (stereo view) of the Schooley's Mountain Presbyterian Church, c1890, provided by Gary Saratzky.
29. Welsh Farms baseball uniform, c1945, given by Rae Cronshey Hoffman.
30. Middle Valley photos, 300 year history, photos, & maps of Raritan Inn property including Samuel Swackhamer's dwelling, given by Bill Asdal.
31. Charcoal history by John Hemmings, charcoal made at Cooper Mill, and photographs of process, given by John Hemmings.
32. Photo image of Schooley's Mountain General Store with gas pumps, c1985, donated by Karen Muscat.

Donations to the Museum

1. Christine and Colin Money donated a cordless telephone for the upstairs office.
2. Naresh Garg built a stand for the large screen monitor; John Hemmings helped to drill holes in his workshop.
3. Holly Zimmerman donated an artificial Christmas tree, stand, and storage boxes.

Monetary Contributions to WTHS

Dale Blum
Fran Borgenicht
Bill Capell
Carol and Larry Coulthurst
Raymond Cummins and Rodger Cummins
Kelly Ann Doerr and Mark Fredrickson
Donn Dufford
Theodora and Robert Falcone
Carol J. Folk
Naresh Garg and Shelley Heretyk
Eleanor and Mervyn Haines, Jr.
Eileen Ader-Hunger Kusnirik
Long Valley Woman's Club Evening Membership Dept.
Christine and Colin Money
Millicent Palmer
Ruth and Murray Reed
Restaurant Village
Sara and Sid Schorr
Swackhamer-Dufford Genealogical Society
Barbara and Peter Westergaard
Carol Zaikowski
Holly and Chris Zimmerman