

The Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society

NEWSLETTER



Volume 34, Issue Three

November, 2009

HISTORIC BARN RESTORATION & FALL POTLUCK SUPPER FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009

The Society is pleased to report that all are invited to attend the fall Potluck Supper on November 6 at 6:30 PM at the Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Please remember to bring a covered dish to share along with your own place setting and utensils. Beverages will be provided by the Society. As always, friends of society members are welcome to join us.

Our speakers will be Elric Endersby and Alex Greenwood from the New Jersey Barn Company and Chris Pickell of Pickell Architecture. They are the professionals who are working on the barn the Society is erecting at the Barn Park here in town. They will discuss this project, as well as the work they do with individuals in revitalizing barns. The New Jersey Barn Company is based in Princeton and has been moving and rebuilding antique timber frame barns and other historic structures for more than 25 years. Pickell Architecture is based in Flemington and has worked with the New Jersey Barn Company on other projects.

*Michelle Newman-Dickey & Mia Lindberg,
Vice Presidents & Program Chairmen*



President's Message

This has been an exciting year for our Society. The Hambletonian and American Quilts: Our Cranbury Collection exhibits were enjoyed by all who visited the Museum. In April, we honored Don Jo Swanagan for his many years of service to the Society. We had a Birthday Party at the Museum for Hambletonian on May 17 and participated in the Memorial Day parade with an attractive float. The Lantern Ghost Tour on June 6 was a huge success and left those who attended wanting another tour next year. We celebrated our country's birthday together at Village Park on July 5, and dedicated the historic marker for Cranberry Mills at the History Center on July 12. A children's quilt sewing class was held at our Museum that same day.

In August, Board members voted to proceed with the 2010 re-erection of the Parsonage Barn, c.1770 at the Barn Park on Cranbury Neck Road. This exciting project will be discussed at our Potluck Supper on November 6. Please join us to learn more.

On Cranbury Day, the Society's table was alive with activity, as popular sale items, House Tour and Luncheon tickets, Quilt Raffle tickets, and fall plants were sold. A yard sale was held at the Museum that day. We joined the Public Library on October 3 and sold collectables and House Tour and Quilt Raffle tickets. Our successful House Tour featuring six lovely homes and other interesting buildings and exhibits in our beautiful town was held on October 17. Still ahead this year is our Annual Membership Meeting and Potluck on November 6 at 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church; the opening of an antique toy exhibit at the Museum in November; and the Christmas Tea at the Museum on Sunday afternoon, December 6. I hope to see you at these events!

*My best wishes,
Audrey Smith*

Thanks to all who supported our fall flower sale

As fall gives way to winter, we hopefully will have a few more fine fall days to enjoy the mums, cabbage, kale and cornstalks sold by the Society in October. More than 525 were sold and now proudly decorate our porches and gardens, making Cranbury a bit more colorful and welcoming!

Special thanks go out to Lisa Beach, Ray Dickey, Mario Fiorentini, Michelle Newman-Dickey, Jim Swale and Bill Wagner for providing our home delivery service!

Karen Fiorentini & Norma Swale



Raising the Roof!

Have you seen the new roof on the Museum? It was completed in August and has been admired ever since. Hanover Construction Company did the work on some of the hottest days in July and August.

2009 House Tour

Thanks to all who helped make the 2009 House Tour a success! We appreciate those who generously and graciously opened their homes so this tradition could be continued. And thank you to all those who supported the tour in so many ways: preparing publicity; selling tickets; acting as hosts and hostesses; baking, and more. Visitors were able to get a glimpse of just how special Cranbury is!

With appreciation,
Audrey Smith & Bobbie Marlowe
Co-Chairmen, 2009 House Tour

Church Record Preservation

History Center staff Roi Taylor and Ginny Swanagan have worked with members of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury to organize and preserve valuable church records, some dating back to the earliest days of the congregation, which is 275 years old this year. With more than 9,000 pages of documents related to marriages, births, deaths and other church and town events, the project is both labor intensive and costly. The church is seeking to preserve records in easily accessible digital formats and to move the original records to the Princeton Theological Seminary. These records help us understand Cranbury's history (for example, see story on page 4). Donations may be made to: 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury & mailed to: 22 S. Main St., Cranbury, NJ 08512. Please put "church records" in the memo line.

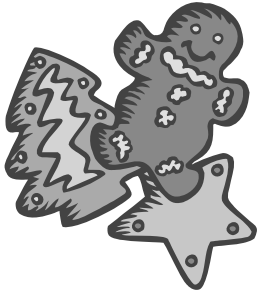
Quilt Raffle



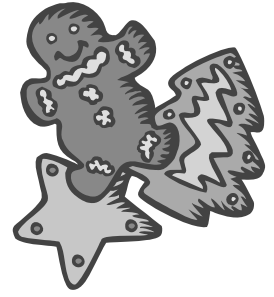
Our quilt raffle has been very successful! If any tickets are still remaining they will be available at the November 6 Potluck Supper. The raffle drawing will take place at the Museum at 2 PM on Sunday, November 15.

If you can't make the meeting on November 6, please call Audrey Smith at 609-655-5361 to purchase tickets.

Thanks to all who have supported the raffle!



Holiday Festivities Are Just Around the Corner!



Save the Date to Trim the Tree! Thursday, December 3

On Thursday, December 3 at 10 AM, all members and friends are welcome to join us as we gather at the Cranbury Museum for our tree trimming social and luncheon. We will start the morning stringing popcorn and cranberries and adorning the tree with our wonderful collection of vintage ornaments in preparation for the Christmas Tea.

After our work is through and every berry strung, we will enjoy a light luncheon of tea sandwiches, sweets and, of course, tea served in the Museum's beautiful antique china cups. This event has become as anticipated as the Christmas tea itself! Please mark your calendars. We look forward to seeing you there.



Victorian Christmas Tea Sunday, December 6

Please join us at the Cranbury Museum on Sunday, December 6 from 1 to 4 PM for spiced tea, cookies and merriment as the Society holds its annual Victorian Christmas Tea. The Museum will be beautifully decorated for the holiday season by our group of talented volunteers with a lovely display of vintage ornaments, greenery and garlands.

Do bring your singing voices, as we continue a long-standing tradition at the tea, caroling alongside our trusty 1850s pump organ.

Always a highlight of the tea is the charming punch and cookie table for our littlest visitors. So please bring your children by to join in the festivities!

This event is a wonderful way to start off the holiday season and an opportunity to step back in time for a moment and celebrate the holiday in 19th century fashion. We at the Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society wish everyone a joyous and healthy holiday season.

Which Cookie to Choose?

Each year our members outdo themselves, combing through cookbooks and recipe files to find the perfect contribution to the cookie table. Try these for the holidays. Some call them Russian Tea Cakes, some call them Mexican Wedding Cakes. Everyone calls them delicious!

Russian Tea Cakes

1 c. Butter, softened
1/2 c. Powdered sugar
2 1/4 c. Flour
3/4 c. finely chopped walnuts
1/4 t. salt
1 t. pure vanilla extract
Extra powdered sugar for decorating

- 1) Combine all ingredients, except extra powdered sugar. Mix well.
- 2) Refrigerate dough til chilled.
- 3) Preheat oven to 350. Roll into 1 inch balls and bake on ungreased sheet for 15 minutes until just lightly browned.
- 4) While still warm from the oven, roll in extra sugar. These cookies are fragile til fully cool. Makes 24.

Cranbury Civil War Soldiers Monument
June 3, 1865, Trustees Meeting Presbyterian Church
Jerry Pevahouse

Reverend Joseph Gaston Symmes introduced a resolution to construct a monument to area Civil War dead during the June, 1865 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the 1st Presbyterian Church of Cranbury. Trustee Mathew A Rue donated the first five dollars toward the project and suggested soliciting 5 dollars from 100 men to begin the project. Rev Joseph G. Symmes, Matthew Rue & James Scudder were selected as a committee to oversee the project. The project was intended to memorialize local men killed during the war from South Brunswick, Monroe and Cranbury Townships. Also involved in the project were the 2nd Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Cranbury.

By March 1866 approximately \$2,000 had been raised and the monument was completed by the 4th of July. The Frederick Lupton Company of Middletown Point, NJ carved the monument. The final cost came to three to five hundred dollars more than the amount raised. Originally the dedication was planned as a simple local gathering but due to the cost overrun a festival was planned as part of the dedication to raise additional money. Local ladies helped organized the festival and prepared food. The new monument arrived in July and was placed on the right side of the 1st Presbyterian Church building facing Main Street. The names of 66 men from 18 Civil War regiments were carved on the monument but special recognition was given to the 14th NJ Volunteers placing their names together on the front. Reverend Symmes explained:

“I was surprised to find that nearly one third of the names were from the 14th Regiment. Twenty three names out of sixty six are from that regiment. It was of course proper that those names should occupy one side of the monument. The other names represent seventeen different regiments. They had to be arranged so as to bring associated names together as far as possible. The record therefore naturally necessarily begins with the 14th Regiment.”

August 1, 1866 Monument Dedication Cranbury

Governor Marcus Ward attended as honored guest and speaker. The dedication services began in the sanctuary of the 1st Presbyterian Church. Noted Newark journalist John Y Foster offered the main oration. Rev Symmes read biographies of the soldiers whose names were engraved on the monument beginning with Capt Symmes H Stults of Co H, 14th NJ Volunteers. Colonels Joseph C Jackson and Myron Beaumont of the 1st NJ Cavalry, Dr Hunt and the Hon H N Congar spoke during the afternoon. A detailed account of the dedication was reported in New Jersey newspapers the following week. The conclusion of the ceremonies was described as follows:

“After the address by Mr. Foster and the reading of the history in the church a procession was formed to the monument. And that procession was a most imposing spectacle. It was literally an outpouring of the surrounding country to pay funeral honors to the brave men whose dust is scattered from New York to Natchez and from St Louis to Charleston. Reverently, solemnly, earnestly were those honors paid, as richly were they deserved. On the grounds in the midst of the surrounding multitude the ceremonies consisted of a statement by Rev Mr Symmes of the efforts for the creation of the monument; the appropriate dedicatory address by Gov. Ward; singing by the choir in a most touching and thrilling manner of a piece titled “Peacefully Sleep”; & a comprehensive benediction by the Rev. Gilmore of the M.E. Church of Cranbury.”

The festival succeeded in raising about 500 dollars to pay the additional cost for the construction of the monument with some money left over. Construction of an iron fence was proposed using the left over money but it is uncertain whether the fence was ever purchased. Because of expansion of the church in 1870 the monument was moved from it's original location along Main Street by the church to behind the church in front of Brainerd Cemetery. Later it was moved again to it's present location inside Brainerd Cemetery.

Docents Wanted ~ Arlene Duran

Do you enjoy meeting people? Would you like to learn more about our Museum and the town's history? If yes, we are looking for you to join a wonderful, dedicated group of people, known as docents. Docents are volunteer tour guides who spend just three hours each month on a Sunday afternoon, greeting visitors and showing them our lovely Museum.

I look forward to hearing from you. Remember, no experience necessary. We'll train you! I can be reached at atduran@comcast.net or 609-860-0164.

I want to thank all the dedicated docents who continually help and support the Museum.

Membership Update ~ Fran Rak

The Society extends a warm welcome and thanks to Neal and Bonnie Wagman and Dan and Sharon Harshberger of Cranbury and Laura Hawkins of Princeton, new members since our last newsletter. In addition, we wish to acknowledge the area businesses to continue to support the Society. Thank you to the following for their generosity: Allen & Stults Company; Blue Rooster Bakery & Café; Chip Trucking; Cranbury Comfort Systems; Cranbury Pizza; David Wells Antiques; Herr's Plumbing and Heating Service; Meyer & Meyer Painting & Papering; and Montessori Preschool Academy Cranbury.



In Memoriam

We are saddened by the death of member Sandy Majeski who passed away on August 26, 2009. She is missed by the Cranbury community.



2010 Membership Form

Mail checks to: **Cranbury Historical & Preservation Society**, P.O. Box 77, Cranbury, NJ 08512

Membership Status (check one): ___New ___Renewal

Membership Category (check one): ___Individual, \$15.00 ___Family, \$25.00 ___Sponsor, \$35.00
___Patron, \$50.00 or more ___Corporate, \$150.00 or more

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I prefer to receive my CHPS newsletter by: Email Mail

Matching gifts are a significant source of support for the Society. If you work (or have retired from) one of the hundreds of companies that generously match employee donations, please don't let this opportunity pass you by. Just ask your Personnel Office for a Matching Gift form, fill it in and send it to us. We'll do the rest. Together we can continue to preserve our unique heritage.

Please consider one or more of the following volunteer opportunities: Museum docent:___ Social functions:___

House tour:___ Educational programs:___ Fundraising:___ Publicity:___

Other: _____

Barn Project Update

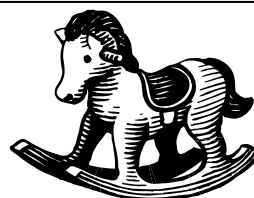
The Society is working with Cranbury Township to re-erect the Parsonage Barn, c. 1770, that was once a part of the Parsonage Plantation, and more recently located on the Updike farm property.

On August 24, the Township Committee voted to transfer \$40,500 from surplus to be used to make the remaining payments on the Township's contract with the New Jersey Barn Company. The Barn Company began work on repairing the barn timbers in October.

Members of the Society's Barn Project Committee are Mark Berkowsky, Bill Bunting, Kathy Jani, Audrey Smith, Norma Swale, Jay Taylor and Betty Wagner. In 2010, the barn will be re-erected near the place where it stood for more than 230 years. It will become part of the Barn Park on Cranbury Neck Road just off South Main Street.

Please Renew Your Membership Today!

A 2010 membership form is located on page five of this newsletter. Please try to renew your membership by January 15, 2010. Why not renew right now? Each contribution by our members and supporters is truly appreciated and used responsibly to maintain our historic building, preserve documents and artifacts and educate our citizens and visitors.



Antique Toys for Girls and Boys!

Our fall and winter exhibit at the Museum will be a collection of antique toys on loan from member Lyn Lakner's mother. Toys are always a fun addition to the holiday décor at the Museum, so stop in to see if a favorite from your past is on display!

Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society
4 Park Place East
PO Box 77
Cranbury, NJ 08512

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #774
EDISON, NJ 08837

Cranbury Museum

4 Park Place East
Open Sundays 1 to 4 and by appt.
Ph: 609/655-2611

Cranbury History Center

6 South Main Street
Open Tuesdays 10:30 to 1:30 & by appt.
Ph: 609/860-1889
Email: historycenter@comcast.net
Web: www.cranburyhistory.org
Webmaster: Webmaster@cranburyhistory.org