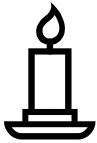


Quarterly Newsletter Of The Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

Number 07-1

March 2007



“Woodstown by Candlelight”

The weather for the 30th Annual Woodstown by Candlelight Tour was windy and threatening. The threat of bad weather did not ruin the night of holiday fun for those who ventured out for the evening to visit the open houses, churches and businesses that participated in the tour this year.

There were fourteen homes open to visitors this year with several that were on the tour for the first time. Preparing for the tour is a lot of hard work, the Society is especially grateful to the homeowners who generously open their homes for this annual event.

Again this year, over 200 volunteers and groups donated their time, talents, cookie baking skills and financial support to make this a unique community event. It is people like you who make this a successful evening no matter what the weather, for both the Historical Society and the Woodstown Community. We value your comments and suggestions for future tours and we hope your Christmas season was filled with family, friends and much happiness.

The ornament for the 30th Candlelight Tour in 2006 is a glazed, ceramic candle. If you are trying to complete your collection or just beginning to collect them, you will want to call Judy Hathaway (ornament chairperson) at 856-769-4529. We even have a limited quantity of ornaments from previous years.

The society is looking for volunteers to help manage the tour. If you are interested in helping, please call the society at 856-769-4588 or William Aldrich at 856-769-7228.

Please mark Friday, December 7, 2007 on your calendar, the date of this year's Woodstown by Candlelight Tour!!! Your continued support will make this celebration of our 31st Woodstown by Candlelight an outstanding event!!

Thank you for your continued participation and support of the Candlelight Tour this year. Your support has meant so much to the society and to Woodstown. Thank you !!

Bowen Avenue

Bowen Avenue is named after the Bowen Family, that prior to 1860, lived in a home on Main Street at what is now Bowen Avenue.

The head of the Bowen family, Smith Bowen, moved to Philadelphia in the spring of 1861 where he established and operated a paint manufacturing business. He retained the property in Woodstown which included eight to ten acres of land fronting on Main Street. The land extended from Main Street to and across the railroad to the Catholic Church and Cemetery on Elm Street.

Mr. Bowen had long planned to develop this property with streets and building lots. After the opening of the railroad, Mr. Bowen's first proposed development included a street running from Main Street to East Avenue with another street located on the site of the current Bowen Avenue. This street would be connected to Main Street again at the current location of Grant Avenue. This plan fell through when an agreement for the right of way could not be reached with the owner of that property.



Mr. Bowen next proposed that a street be built at the location of Grant Street from Main Street to a point on his property (near the current location of Ice and Coal) then due south to the current Bowen Avenue and then to East Avenue. An application for this proposal was filed with the courts and surveyors were appointed to layout these streets. Following warmly debated discussions between the advocates for a straight street and those for a crooked street, a compromise was reached where the proposed Grant Street would run from Main Street straight to the railroad and then turn parallel to the railroad and connect with East Avenue. Bowen Avenue would be constructed between Main Street and Grant Street at a point opposite the railroad property.



Construction of Grant Street was begun shortly thereafter. Mr. Bowen died before work began on his property. Mr. Bowen left the property to his widow, Anne who also died before work could commence on the project. Her sons and the executors of the estate moved forward with the project in 1887.

The first task was to construct a wooden bridge across a stream and ravine that crossed the Western end of the proposed Bowen Avenue near the intersection with Main Street. As soon as the work on the bridge was underway, men and carts

began excavation and grading of Bowen Avenue and the building lots. Work was completed in the spring of 1888 and the building lots were offered for sale.

In order to induce the sale of the lots a fifty percent discount was offered to the purchaser of the first lot on either side of the street. Among the first to buy were the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church who bought land for a parsonage and Mrs. Lydia A. Coles who purchased land on the north side of the street and was the first to build. Mr William Lippincott and William Reeves were the first to purchase lots on the south side of the street.

By 1899, the wooden bridge constructed by the Bowen Estate was in need of repair. The County Board of Freeholders, under whose jurisdiction it came, replaced the bridge with a four foot diameter iron pipe laid in the bed of the former water course.

Calendar of Society Programs

As of this writing the subjects dates and times for the May and November Programs have not been finalized.

**Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at the Reliance Fire Company Hall
Covered Dish Dinner 6:30 pm, Business Meeting and Program 7:30 pm**

Frank Stubbins will present a program about the history, manufacture and varied uses of glass with highlights on glass products and manufacturers from South Jersey. Frank will be displaying historical flasks, canning jars, hand-blown, pressed and "free blown" ware, along with glass products from other areas. The display will also include examples of contemporary blown glass

Hosts and Hostesses: Marian Aldrich, Bill Aldrich, Connie Rosenberger and Don Dietrich

The program for May will be advertised in the next quarterly newsletter.

**Monday, September 24, 2007 at the Morning Star Baptist Church
Business Meeting 7:30 pm, Program 8:00 pm**

The parishioners of the Morning Star Baptist Church will present tonight's program on the history of the church in Woodstown. Hosts and Hostesses: Ann Tatnall, Sue Allen, Libby Myers, and Frank Stubbins

The program for November will be advertised in the next quarterly newsletter.

Museum

Persons or families that may have antiques or interesting articles that they might be willing to have on display, either as a loan or gift, may call Elizabeth Myers at 856-358-7853. The Society is also interested in any historical records or books pertaining to Pilesgrove or Woodstown.

Membership

We would like to gratefully acknowledge our Sponsors.

Friends Village of Woodstown
Junior Women's Club of Woodstown
Franklin Savings Bank
Harvest Community Bank
Ross Fogg & Son Oil Company
Joseph E. Colson and Gosweiler Agency
Gerald Montaigne, Jr.
Timothy Baker
Perez and Salley Collins
Liz Smith

Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

42 North Main Street
Woodstown, New Jersey 08098
Phone 856-769-4588

Museum Hours: Saturday 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Officers for 2007

President	William Aldrich
Vice President	Frank Stubbins
Recording Secretary	Janet Turin
Corresponding Secretary	Marie Haaf
Membership	Sue Allen
Treasurer	Deb Tierno

Trustees

Elizabeth Myers	2007
Cheryl Valente	2007
Ann Tatnall	2007
Marian Aldrich	2008
Connie Rosenberger	2008
Phyllis Sauler	2008
Howard Riegel	2009
Don Dietrich	2009
Don Johnson	2009

Membership

Annual Dues	\$20.00
Family Membership	\$25.00
Individual Life Membership	\$200.00
Sponsor	\$50.00

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