

Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society Newsletter

Number 06-2

May 2006

Message from the President

Last year we completed several major maintenance projects at the museum and schoolhouse, some of the projects were planned others were emergencies.

In the spring and summer we had the siding and windows of the Eldridges Hill Schoolhouse repaired and repainted. Thanks to Frank Stubbins and Dennis Harvey for their hard work the schoolhouse should survive for many more years.

In the fall the shutters on the museum were repaired and painted. Thanks again to Dennis and Frank for their hard work we were able to have the shutters back in place for the tour.

In the fall we had the underground oil tank removed to avoid any future problems with leaks. We were planning to have new tanks installed in the basement, but before we could get that work started we found out that the old furnace and water heater needed to be replaced. We then decided that it would be better to replace the furnace with a new high efficiency gas furnace. Thanks to Frank Stubbins, Howard Reigel and the kind folks at Monarch Transport Inc. for their help in removing disposing of the oil tank and Larry Haines Plumbing and Heating for their hard work to replace the furnace in time for the tour.

Speaking of the tour, we need to thank Trudy Hathaway, Ann Tatnall and the hundreds of volunteers who make the Candlelight Tour an annual success. Without the tour the society would out of business. This year we are looking for volunteers to help Trudy and Ann manage the tour. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact us at the society or call me at 856-769-4588.

The library committee has been busy sorting, cataloging and re-organizing our collection of documents and artifacts. We are planning on purchasing a new, user friendly software program that will make our information accessible to our members. Thanks to the hard work of Libby Myers and Connie Rosenberger this should be completed later this year.

We will officially celebrate the 30th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Historical Society with a dinner party which will be held at the Ruses Restaurant on October 1st. More details will be provided later this year when they are finalized.

Finally, on December 10th, we will be cosponsoring a special program with the Salem County Historical Society. This program will be held in the new Friends Home in Woodstown. More details will follow in the next newsletter when they are finalized.

Thanks again for your support

Bill Aldrich, President

The First National Bank of Woodstown

The First National Bank of Woodstown was organized on February 16, 1864. Business at the bank commenced on July 25, 1864 in the house of C.M. Fogg that was located on Salem Street in Woodstown. On October 25, 1864 the bank moved from the Fogg house to its new building on North Main Street across from the Friends Meeting House. On May 19, 1892, the bank moved to the corner of Main and Salem (now West Ave) Streets.



The directors in 1864 included many of Woodstown's most prominent citizens. The directors included Wm. J. Shinn, Edw. B. Humphreys, John H. Lippincott, John W. Dickinson, Samuel Borton, Elijah B. Horner, Samuel H. Weatherby, Samuel Black, James Benezet and Isaiah D. Clawson.

The bank building at Main Street and West Avenue, was designed by the Philadelphia architect Albert W. Brooks in 1891 and was built by contractor James Johnstone for \$17,000.

The architect, Albert W. Dilks, was active in Philadelphia from 1887 to 1917, his work tended towards an elaborate, multi-textured and expressive Victorian style based loosely on the English Queen Anne design. Most of Dilks residential work still exists in the Powelton Village area of West Philadelphia near the campus of Drexel University. That neighborhood was the home for many of the industrial, railroad and energy elite of Philadelphia in the 1880's.

The exterior of the building is a combination of Brownstone and "black-flecked" Perth Amboy bricks. The building was remodeled in 1947 and again in 1987. The latest renovation was supervised by Watson & Henry an architectural and engineering firm from Bridgeton. Following the extensive research of Watson and Henry and using photographs and documents obtained from the library and from local citizens, the decision was made to begin the restoration. To ensure that the restoration was authentic, samples of brick, mortar and paint were removed from inconspicuous areas of the building and were painstakingly matched.



During the planning stages, select portions of the interior constructed during the 1947 renovations were removed. This work uncovered the remains of the original pressed metal ceiling and a fireplace that had been concealed by a plaster wall. Further investigation revealed a mosaic tile floor in the vestibule and the elaborately painted vault door. When an old metal exterior sign was removed the original, gold accented, carved lettering was discovered intact.

Calendar of Society Programs and Events

Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at the Reliance Fire Company Hall Business Meeting 7:30 pm, Program 8:00 pm

Tonight's program "Getting started in genealogy". Tips and tidbits to help you research and document the information you seek. You won't find information about your ancestors here but you can pick up some great information on where and how to find the information you are searching for. The program will be presented by a panel of experts from the Genealogical Society of Salem County. Hosts and Hostesses: Phyllis Sauler, Cheryl Valente, Libby Myers, and Frank Stubbins



Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at the Reliance Fire Company Hall Business Meeting 7:30 pm, Program 8:00 pm



Amateur archeologist and antique bottle collector Joe Butewicz will relate his experiences and some of the things he has found while investigating colonial era privies in the Frankford and Fishtown Neighborhoods of Philadelphia in the 1970's. Hosts and Hostesses: Ann Tatnall, Sue Allen and Chick Harrison

Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at the St. Luke' Episcopal Church Hall at 37 East Grant Street in Woodstown, Business Meeting 7:30 pm, Program 8:00 pm

The parishioners of St. Luke's Episcopal Church will present tonight's program on the history of the church in Woodstown. Hosts and Hostesses: Janet Turin, Deb Tierno, Howard Reigel and Bill Aldrich

Sunday, October 1, 2006 at the Rushes Restaurant in Pilesgrove 30th Anniversary Dinner Party for the Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

December 1, 2006 Woodstown by Candlelight

Sunday, December 10, 2006 at the New Friends Home in Woodstown
A special program co-sponsored by the Salem County Historical Society and the Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

Membership Report

6 Sponsors, 81 Life Members, 2 Honorary Members and 65 Annual Members

New members this year

Michael D. Burke and Lisa Marandola – Sponsor Members
TJ's Lawn and Landscaping
Jim and Judy Salvino
William Campbell
Tom and Jill James
Stuart Wright
George and Cindy Lacy

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 2006

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

Trustees

Howard Riegel	2006
Robert Brooks	2006
Charles Harrison	2006
Elizabeth Myers	2007
Cheryl Valente	2007
Marian Aldrich	2007
Connie Rosenberger	2007
Ann Tatnall	2007
Phyllis Sauler	2008

Membership

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

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