

# Quarterly Newsletter Of The Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

Number 07-2

May 2007

## QUARTERLY PROGRAM

**Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 7:30 PM in the Community Room of the Friends Village in Woodstown. There will be a Business Meeting 7:30 pm followed by the Program at 8:00 pm**

Tonight's slide/lecture program "SAVING OUR HISTORIC HOUSES" will be presented by Ronald Magill the Founder and President of the Salem Old House Foundation. In 2000 Ron founded the non-profit Salem Old House Foundation for the purpose of restoring, rehabbing and preserving historic residential architecture in Salem County, including the 1722 Abel and Mary Nicholson House in Elsinboro Township.

Hosts and Hostesses: Ann Tatnall, Sue Allen, Libby Myers, and Frank Stubbins

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have already renewed your membership in the Society. For those members who have not yet renewed your membership please remember that your financial support is important and allows us to continue to maintain and operate the library and museum as well our free quarterly programs and newsletters.

In 2006 the Society completed several major maintenance projects on the museum and schoolhouse buildings. Some of these projects were planned others were emergencies. The projects included repairs to the siding and windows of the schoolhouse and the shutters on the museum were repaired and painted. In the fall we had the underground oil tank removed and the old furnace was replaced with a new gas furnace and while that work was in progress the water heater failed and was replaced.

Our maintenance projects for 2007 include a fresh coat of paint and repairs to the built-in roof gutter system on the Main Street façade of the museum and library building.

We are asking for financial support from our members and the community we serve to help with this year's operating and building maintenance expenses. The society is a non-profit organization and as such, all donations are tax deductible. Donations should be sent to the Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society, 42 North Main Street, Woodstown NJ, 08098.

The Officers and Board of Trustees of the Society would like to thank you in advance for your continued support of our organization. We also hope that you and your family will be able to visit our museum and attend one of this year's free quarterly programs.

## A Soldier in The Revolutionary War

There is a solitary grave on the road from Salem to Camden in Pilesgrove Township just east of Eldridges Hill about 1 ½ miles from Woodstown. The grave is the last resting place of Major Christian Piercy, a veteran of the Revolutionary War.

Christian Piercy was a resident of the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia. The house that he owned and lived in was on the west side of Front Street at the corner of Artillery Lane. He was a potter, and his pottery shop was also on Front Street near his home. He was a successful businessman, and employed a number of workmen in his shop. He also had a number of apprentices, who lived with his family as was the custom of that time. During the war, his house was confiscated by the British and was used as a barracks for the soldiers of General Howe's army while they occupied Philadelphia.



Photo by Mr. James B. Kemp.

THE SOLITARY GRAVE OF MAJOR CHRISTIAN PIERCY.  
One and a half miles from Woodstown, N. J., near Eldridge's Hill

Piercy was married twice and had eight children, all by his first wife. He also had two brothers, Jacob and Henry who also were soldiers in the war.

Christian Piercy was a Major in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War and served under General Anthony Wayne. He fought in battles at Brandywine and Paoli in Pennsylvania and in 1777 was encamped in Billingsport, New Jersey with the 5<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Militia. In the autumn of 1777 and during the winter of 1777-78 he was with the army camped at Valley Forge.

In the summer of 1793 there was a yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Piercy decided to seek shelter from the fever for his family in New Jersey. While traveling on the stage coach from Camden to Salem, Piercy took ill from the fever near Eldridges Hill. He was cared for briefly in a cabin owned by Issac Eldridge but never recovered and he died there on September 27, 1793. The tombstone at the grave was erected there by the estate of Christian Piercy.

Jacob Piercy was a fifer in the First Company of the Pennsylvania Artillery in 1776 and corporal in the Second Pennsylvania Regiment from 1777 to 1781. Jacob was also with the army while it was camped at Valley Forge.

The youngest of the brothers, Henry Piercy, was in the army for the entire war. He eventually achieved the rank of Lieutenant in the Pennsylvania Line. He was wounded at Chickahominy Church in Virginia during the march to the battle of Yorktown. Henry was an original member of the Cincinnati Society and his certificate of membership was signed by General Washington and General Knox.

## **SPECIAL PROGRAM NOTICE**

**THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SALEM COUNTY** will be presenting a program entitled "Colonial records of the Swedish Churches in Pennsylvania and New Jersey" on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The program will be held at the Friends Village Auditorium on Route 40, Woodstown, NJ. The program speakers will be Rev. Dr. Kim-Eric Williams and Dr. Peter S. Craig authors of "The Log Churches at Tinicum Island and Wicaco" and "The Rudman Years (1697 - 1702)". For questions or information concerning the program contact Bill Stoms at [southjerseykit@snip.net](mailto:southjerseykit@snip.net) or Karen Ann Muhlhair at [km4329@yahoo.com](mailto:km4329@yahoo.com).

### **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.**

Franklin Savings Bank  
Ross Fogg & Son Oil Company  
Woodruff Energy  
Cuckoo's Nest Inc.  
Elizabeth Kragler  
Donna and Forrest Eichmann  
Silvia and J Gill Lippincott  
Harvest Community Bank

### **New Life Members**

Samuel H Jones  
David and Carolyn Layton

**We would also like to thank the following members for their continued financial support of the society.**

William and Marian Aldrich  
Perez and Sally Collins  
Helen DeMaris

### **In Remembrance**

Mary Pancoast  
Laura Dean Walker

**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 Dues**

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

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