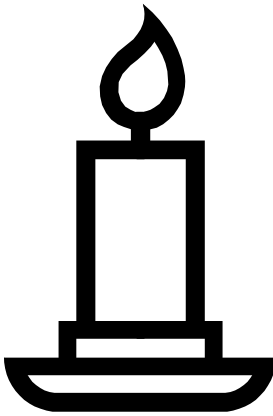


Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society Newsletter

Number 05-4

November 2005

Woodstown by Candlelight



One night a year, a quiet little town dazzles visitors and residents alike with a spectacular Candlelight Tour. That town has been doing this Christmastime tour for 30 years and they have it down pat even to the tiniest detail. Stroll down lamp lit Main Street, past Victorian and Colonial homes aglow with candles in all the windows. Smell the evergreen boughs and trees decorated with old-fashioned ornaments and balls. Glimpse the doors of businesses and homes alike, decorated in hopes of winning the Best Decorated Door contest. Listen to the carolers, the string and brass musicians, even the town crier, echo in the night. It is the 30th anniversary of **Woodstown by Candlelight**, Friday December 2nd, sponsored by the Pilesgrove - Woodstown Historical Society. This year there are 12 homes, as well as many businesses, churches and schools, open to the public.

Some familiar favorites, as well as some new homes to the tour, are open this year. Homeowners are sharing their personal collections as well as holiday memories with visitors. House tours begin at 6:00PM and are open until 10:00PM.

Many tour takers have made this an annual holiday event that they look forward to. A tasty dinner can be bought and enjoyed at the Fire Hall and then it's off to see the artisans and crafters at the Municipal Building. Dinner is available from 4:00pm to 7:00PM at the Reliance Fire Hall.

And a tour would not be complete without the free wassail and homemade cookies available at the First Baptist Church. All in all, this year's tour promises to be yet another successful, interesting tour for friends and visitors to Woodstown.

The enthusiastic support of our tour by the community has enabled us to purchase and continue the restoration of our Historical Society Museum on North Main Street and to restore the Eldridge's Hill Schoolhouse that was moved to the Museum property. Your continued support will further the restoration efforts and will enable us to expand our collections.

The Officers and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Historic Society would like to thank everyone (homeowner's, tour committee members, volunteers, businesses, schools and churches) that help make the tour a success.

Every year in the winter edition of the society newsletter, we highlight a selection of homes that are scheduled to be open for the upcoming Candlelight tour. This year we have selected several interesting homes for this year's sneak preview.



45 Lotus Avenue.

The house was built by Jeremiah and Catherine Wood circa 1750, this historic home is considered to be the oldest in Woodstown. Jeremiah a shoemaker from Long Island, New York, moved to this area sometime in the 1730's, where with his wife Catherine, they owned and operated a tannery. The house is constructed of sun baked brick which was covered with stucco sometime in the 1800's. In

1790 a clapboard addition was added to the rear of the house. The home has undergone a number of renovations during the past 250 years, however many original features remain including the wide plank floors and the kitchen fireplace. The current owners have begun removing the remaining stucco and hope that the house will once again resemble the home built by Jeremiah Wood in 1740.

110 South Main Street.

The first written mention of Woodstown by name was in an advertisement that was placed in a Philadelphia newspaper by Jackanias Wood for an equine stud service. The address given in the advertisement was "Woods Town", Salem County. The original and oldest part of the house was built in 1757 by Jackanias Wood. Unfortunately, most of the original building was destroyed by a fire. A small section of the left side of the house was saved and was incorporated in



to the reconstruction. The Flemish Bond brickwork of that portion of the building distinguishes it of the rest of the building. The front part of the house was rebuilt on a grand scale in 1792. The Victorian porch was a later addition. Wooden floors and staircases, glowing chandeliers and five original fireplaces still warm this historic home.



25 East Grant Street

This late 19th century home is open for the first time this year. The house was built circa 1899. This folk style Victorian home is decorated with wooden lattice work and trim that frames the mahogany front porch and was reportedly the first house on the block heated with coal. Once inside, visitors will see original woodwork and flooring as well as the original door and window hardware. Of special interest is the hat warmer in the family room.

122 North Main Street

This circa 1906 Colonial revival house is known as the “Elwood Davis House” features a grand wrap-around front porch. Upon entering the large foyer take notice of the three beautiful, stained glass windows on the staircase landing that are original to the house. In the family room there is a reverse painted, chandelier from 1900. The current owners have renovated the kitchen and have added two gas lights from the 1860’s. When you leave the house, take note of the 200 year old Gingko tree in the side yard which towers over the house.



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.

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 2005

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

Trustees

Marian Aldrich	2005
Connie Rosenberger	2005
Ann Tatnall	2005
Howard Riegel	2006
Robert Brooks	2006
Charles Harrison	2006
Elizabeth Myers	2007
Cheryl Valente	2007

Membership

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

Please call Mrs. Susan Allen at 769-1147 for membership applications, cards and membership information.

Pilesgrove – Woodstown Historical Society

201 North Main Street
Woodstown, New Jersey 08098